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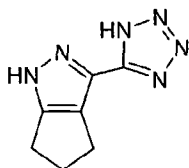
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(54) Title: METHOD OF TREATING ATHEROSCLEROSIS, DYSLIPIDEMIAS AND RELATED CONDITIONS



(I)

(57) Abstract: A method of treating atherosclerosis, dyslipidemia and related conditions is disclosed wherein a compound of formula I: or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof is administered to the patient in combination with a DP receptor antagonist. The DP receptor antagonist is administered to reduce, prevent or eliminate flushing that may otherwise occur.

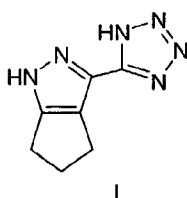
## TITLE OF THE INVENTION

## METHOD OF TREATING ATHEROSCLEROSIS, DYSLIPIDEMIAS AND RELATED CONDITIONS

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5               Niacin or nicotinic acid (pyridine-3-carboxylic acid) is a drug commonly known for its effect in modifying plasma lipids, including elevating serum levels of high density lipoproteins (HDL). However, nicotinic acid is frequently associated with cutaneous vasodilation, sometimes called flushing. This side effect is caused at least in part by the nicotinic acid-induced release of prostaglandin D2 in the skin and is so severe that many patients discontinue nicotinic acid treatment.

10               Recently a nicotinic acid receptor partial agonist of the formula:



has been discovered to have plasma lipid modifying effects. This compound has a reduced flushing effect relative to nicotinic acid, but flushing is not completely eliminated. Consequently, the present invention relates to the treatment of atherosclerosis, dyslipidemias, diabetes and related conditions by  
15       administering a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, in combination with a compound that reduces or eliminates the cutaneous vasodilation that otherwise occurs, such that treatment can progress without substantial flushing. This is achieved in humans by administering a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and a compound that antagonizes the DP receptor.

20               Consequently one object of the present invention is to provide a nicotinic acid receptor partial agonist that can be used to treat dyslipidemias without the patient experiencing the typical flushing effect that is seen when niacin itself is utilized.

Another objective is to eliminate or reduce substantial flushing (frequency and/or severity) as a side effect during the treatment of humans for atherosclerosis, dyslipidemia, diabetes and  
25       related conditions using a compound of formula I.

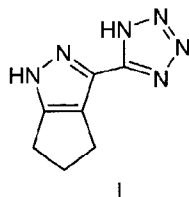
Another object of the present invention is to provide combination therapy for atherosclerosis that minimizes side effects generally.

Yet another object is to provide a fixed combination pharmaceutical composition for oral use.

30               These and other objects will be apparent from the description provided herein.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A method of treating atherosclerosis, dyslipidemias or a related condition in a human patient in need of such treatment is provided that is comprised of administering to the patient a compound of formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and a DP receptor antagonist in amounts that are effective for treating said condition in the absence of substantial flushing.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Niacin or nicotinic acid (pyridine-3-carboxylic acid) is a drug commonly known for its effect in the elevation of high density lipoproteins (HDL) levels, as well as other beneficial alterations of the lipid profile (lowering very low density (VLDL), low density lipoprotein (LDL), triglycerides, free fatty acids (FFA) and lipoprotein(a) [Lp(a)]). Nicotinic acid raises HDL levels when administered to humans in therapeutically effective doses, such as about 50 mg to as high as about 8 grams per day. However, nicotinic acid is frequently associated with cutaneous vasodilation, also called flushing. Flushing typically entails a reddening of the skin, accompanied by warmth, itchiness or irritation. It can be extremely unpleasant, and can be so severe that many patients discontinue nicotinic acid treatment.

The present invention relates to the treatment, prevention or reversal of atherosclerosis and the other diseases and conditions described herein, with a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof without substantial flushing. This is achieved in humans by administering a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and a compound that antagonizes the DP receptor, thus preventing, reducing or minimizing the flushing effect in its frequency and/or severity.

There are at least two receptors that interact with prostaglandin D<sub>2</sub>, referred to as "DP" and "CRTH2". The present invention is primarily concerned with nicotinic acid or nicotinic acid receptor agonists used in combination with antagonists of the DP receptor.

One aspect of the invention that is of interest is a method of treating atherosclerosis in a human patient in need of such treatment comprising administering to the patient a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and a DP receptor antagonist in amounts that are effective for treating atherosclerosis in the absence of substantial flushing.

Another aspect of the invention that is of interest relates to a method of raising serum HDL levels in a human patient in need of such treatment, comprising administering to the patient a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and a DP receptor

antagonist, said combination being effective for raising serum HDL levels in the patient in the absence of substantial flushing.

Another aspect of the invention that is of interest relates to a method of treating dyslipidemia in a human patient in need of such treatment comprising administering to the patient a  
5 compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and a DP receptor antagonist in amounts that are effective for treating dyslipidemia in the absence of substantial flushing.

Another aspect of the invention that is of interest relates to a method of reducing serum VLDL or LDL levels in a human patient in need of such treatment, comprising administering to the patient a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and a DP  
10 receptor antagonist, in amounts that are effective for reducing serum VLDL or LDL levels in the patient in the absence of substantial flushing.

Another aspect of the invention that is of interest relates to a method of reducing serum triglyceride levels in a human patient in need of such treatment, comprising administering to the patient a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and a DP receptor  
15 antagonist, in amounts that are effective for reducing serum triglyceride levels in the patient in the absence of substantial flushing.

Another aspect of the invention that is of interest relates to a method of reducing serum Lp(a) levels in a human patient in need of such treatment, comprising administering to the patient a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and a DP receptor  
20 antagonist, in amounts that are effective for reducing serum Lp(a) levels in the patient in the absence of substantial flushing. As used herein Lp(a) refers to lipoprotein (a).

Another aspect of the invention that is of particular interest relates to each of the methods described above wherein the DP receptor antagonist selectively modulates the DP receptor and does not substantially modulate the CRTH2 receptor.

Another aspect of the invention that is of particular interest relates to a method of treating atherosclerosis, dyslipidemias, diabetes or a related condition in a human patient in need of such treatment, comprising administering to the patient a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and a DP receptor antagonist, said combination being administered in an amount that is effective to treat atherosclerosis, dyslipidemia, diabetes or a related condition in the  
30 absence of substantial flushing.

One aspect of the invention is the use of a DP receptor antagonist compound in combination with a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof for treating atherosclerosis in a human in the absence of substantial flushing.

Another aspect of the invention that is of particular interest relates to the methods  
35 described above wherein the DP receptor antagonist is selected from the group consisting of compounds A through AJ and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof.

Examples of compounds that are particularly useful for selectively antagonizing DP receptors and suppressing the flushing effect include the following:

<p><b>Compound A</b></p>	<p><b>Compound B</b></p>	<p><b>Compound C</b></p>
<p><b>Compound D</b></p>	<p><b>Compound E</b></p>	<p><b>Compound F</b></p>
<p><b>Compound G</b></p>	<p><b>Compound H</b></p>	<p><b>Compound I</b></p>
<p><b>Compound J</b></p>	<p><b>Compound K</b></p>	<p><b>Compound L</b></p>
<p><b>Compound M</b></p>	<p><b>Compound N</b></p>	<p><b>Compound O</b></p>
<p><b>Compound P</b></p>	<p><b>Compound Q</b></p>	<p><b>Compound R</b></p>
<p><b>Compound S</b></p>	<p><b>Compound T</b></p>	<p><b>Compound U</b></p>

<p><b>Compound V</b></p>	<p><b>Compound W</b></p>	<p><b>Compound X</b></p>
<p><b>Compound Y</b></p>	<p><b>Compound Z</b></p>	<p><b>Compound AA</b></p>
<p><b>Compound AB</b></p>	<p><b>Compound AC</b></p>	<p><b>Compound AD</b></p>
<p><b>Compound AE</b></p>	<p><b>Compound AF</b></p>	<p><b>Compound AG</b></p>
<p><b>Compound AH</b></p>	<p><b>Compound AI</b></p>	<p><b>Compound AJ</b></p>

as well as the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof.

Atherosclerosis as used herein refers to a form of vascular disease characterized by the deposition of atheromatous plaques containing cholesterol and lipids on the innermost layer of the walls of large and medium-sized arteries. Atherosclerosis encompasses vascular diseases and conditions that are recognized and understood by physicians practicing in the relevant fields of medicine.

5 Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, including restenosis following revascularization procedures, coronary heart disease (also known as coronary artery disease or ischemic heart disease), cerebrovascular disease including multi-infarct dementia, and peripheral vessel disease including erectile dysfunction, are

all clinical manifestations of atherosclerosis and are therefore encompassed by the terms "atherosclerosis" and "atherosclerotic disease."

"Atherosclerotic disease event" as used herein is intended to encompass coronary heart disease events, cerebrovascular events, and intermittent claudication. Patients who have experienced one or more non-fatal atherosclerotic disease events are those for whom the potential for recurrence of such an event exists.

"Dyslipidemia" is used in the conventional sense to refer to abnormal levels of plasma lipids, such as HDL (low), LDL (high), VLDL (high), triglycerides (high), lipoprotein (a) (high), FFA (high) and other serum lipids, or combinations thereof. It may be an uncomplicated condition or part of a particular related disease or condition such as diabetes (diabetic dyslipidemia), metabolic syndrome and the like. Thus, uncomplicated dyslipidemias as well as those that are associated with underlying conditions are included in the present invention.

"Patient" as used herein includes mammals, especially humans, who use the instant active agents for the prevention or treatment of a medical condition. Administering the drugs to the patient includes both self-administration and administration to the patient by another person. The patient may be in need of treatment for an existing disease or medical condition, or may desire prophylactic treatment to prevent or reduce the risk of onset of atherosclerosis.

"Therapeutically effective amount" refers to that amount of drug that will elicit the desired biological or medical response.

"Prophylactically effective amount" and "amount that is effective to prevent" refer to that amount of drug that will prevent or reduce the risk of occurrence of the biological or medical event that is sought to be prevented. In many instances, the prophylactically effective amount is the same as the therapeutically effective amount.

The invention described herein also includes the administration of the compounds and compositions described herein to prevent or reduce the risk of occurrence, or recurrence where the potential exists, of a coronary heart disease event, a cerebrovascular event, and/or intermittent claudication. Coronary heart disease events are intended to include CHD death, myocardial infarction (i.e., a heart attack), and coronary revascularization procedures. Cerebrovascular events are intended to include ischemic or hemorrhagic stroke (also known as cerebrovascular accidents) and transient ischemic attacks. Intermittent claudication is a clinical manifestation of peripheral vessel disease.

The instant invention also provides a method for preventing or reducing the risk of a first or subsequent occurrence of an atherosclerotic disease event comprising the administration of a prophylactically effective amount of the compounds described herein to a patient at risk for such an event while preventing or minimizing substantial flushing. The patient may already have atherosclerotic disease at the time of administration, or may be at risk for developing it.

The method further relates to preventing or slowing new atherosclerotic lesion or plaque formation, and preventing or slowing the progression of existing lesions or plaques, as well as to causing the regression of existing lesions or plaques, while preventing or minimizing substantial flushing.

One aspect of this invention involves a method for halting or slowing the progression of  
5 atherosclerosis, including halting or slowing atherosclerotic plaque progression, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of any of the DP antagonists described herein in combination with a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, to a patient in need of such treatment. This method also includes halting or slowing progression of  
10 atherosclerotic plaques existing at the time the instant treatment is begun (i.e., "existing atherosclerotic plaques"), as well as halting or slowing formation of new atherosclerotic plaques in patients with atherosclerosis.

Another aspect of this invention involves a method for preventing or reducing the risk of atherosclerotic plaque rupture comprising administering a prophylactically effective amount of any of the compounds described herein along with a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or  
15 solvate thereof to a patient in need of such treatment. Rupture as used herein refers to the disruption of the endothelial layer of a vessel, which can expose the underlying cellular layers and induce blood clot formation, which in turn, can occlude the vessel or move to a distant site where it can become lodged. A further aspect of this invention involves a method for preventing or reducing the risk of developing atherosclerosis, comprising administering a prophylactically effective amount of the compounds  
20 described herein to a patient in need of such treatment.

Another aspect of the invention relates to a method of treating or preventing atherosclerosis, dyslipidemias or a related condition comprising pretreating a human patient in need of such therapy with a flush-inhibiting or reducing effective amount of a DP receptor antagonist, and treating said patient with a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate  
25 thereof in an amount that is effective to treat or prevent said atherosclerosis, dyslipidemia or related condition in the absence of substantial flushing.

Yet another aspect of the invention relates to the method described above, further comprising pre-treating or treating the patient with an HMG Co-A reductase inhibitor.

Another aspect of the invention relates to a method of treating or preventing the  
30 conditions noted above wherein the HMG Co-A reductase inhibitor is simvastatin.

Another aspect of the methods described herein relates to the use of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof in an amount that is effective for achieving the results described herein, and a DP receptor antagonist that selectively modulates the DP receptor without substantially modulating the CRTH2 receptor. The DP receptor antagonist has an  
35 affinity at the DP receptor (i.e.,  $K_i$ ) that is at least about 10 times higher (a numerically lower  $K_i$  value) than the affinity at the CRTH2 receptor. Any compound that selectively interacts with DP according to these guidelines is deemed "DP selective".



“In the absence of substantial flushing” refers to the side effect that is often seen when nicotinic acid is administered in therapeutic amounts. When a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof is administered in therapeutic amounts, a milder flushing effect is possible. The flushing effect may become less frequent and less severe as the patient develops tolerance to the drug at therapeutic doses, but the flushing effect may still occur to some extent. Thus, “in the absence of substantial flushing” refers to the reduced severity of flushing when it occurs or fewer flushing events relative to the flushing severity and frequency elicited with the drug at therapeutic doses than would otherwise occur. Preferably, the incidence of flushing is reduced by at least about a third, more preferably the incidence is reduced by half, and most preferably, the flushing incidence is reduced by about two thirds or more. Likewise, the severity is preferably reduced by at least about a third, more preferably by at least half, and most preferably by at least about two thirds. Clearly a one hundred percent reduction in flushing incidence and severity is most preferable, but is not required.

#### DOSING AND ADMINISTRATION

The specific dosage regimen and levels for any particular patient will depend upon a variety of factors including the age, body weight, general health, sex, diet, time of administration, route of administration, rate of excretion, drug combination and the severity of the patient's condition. Consideration of these factors is well within the purview of the ordinarily skilled clinician for the purpose of determining the therapeutically effective or prophylactically effective dosage amount needed to prevent, counter, or arrest the progress of the condition. It is expected that the compounds described herein will be administered on a daily basis for a length of time appropriate to treat or prevent the medical condition relevant to the patient, including a course of therapy lasting months, years or the life of the patient.

DP antagonists, as described herein, are useful for reducing or preventing the flushing effect in mammalian patients, particularly humans, at dosages ranging from as low as about 0.01 mg/kg/day to as high as about 100 mg/kg/day, administered in single or divided daily doses. Preferably the dosages are from about 0.1 mg/day to as high as about 1.0 g/day, in single or divided daily doses.

A representative dose of the compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof that is useful as described herein ranges from as low as about 0.50 mg/day to as high as about 8 g/day, in single or divided daily doses. A preferable representative dosage range is from about 100 mg/day to about 2 g/day. Lower dosages can be used initially, and dosages increased to further minimize the flushing effect.

The compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and the DP antagonist can be administered together or sequentially in single or multiple daily doses, e.g., bid, tid or qid. If particularly long sustained release is desired, such as a sustained release product showing a release profile that extends beyond 24 hours, dosages may be administered every other day. However, single daily doses are preferred. Likewise, morning or evening dosages can be utilized.

## ADDITIONAL COMBINATIONS

One or more additional active agents may be administered with the compounds described herein. The additional active agent or agents can be lipid modifying compounds or agents having other pharmaceutical activities, or agents that have both lipid-modifying effects and other pharmaceutical activities. Examples of additional active agents which may be employed include but are not limited to HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors, which include statins in their lactonized or dihydroxy open acid forms and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof, including but not limited to lovastatin (see US Patent No. 4,342,767), simvastatin (see US Patent No. 4,444,784), dihydroxy open-acid simvastatin, particularly the ammonium or calcium salts thereof, pravastatin, particularly the sodium salt thereof (see US Patent No. 4,346,227), fluvastatin particularly the sodium salt thereof (see US Patent No. 5,354,772), atorvastatin, particularly the calcium salt thereof (see US Patent No. 5,273,995), pitavastatin also referred to as NK-104 (see PCT international publication number WO 97/23200) and rosuvastatin, also known as CRESTOR<sup>®</sup>, (see US Patent No. 5,260,440); HMG-CoA synthase inhibitors; squalene epoxidase inhibitors; squalene synthetase inhibitors (also known as squalene synthase inhibitors), acyl-coenzyme A: cholesterol acyltransferase (ACAT) inhibitors including selective inhibitors of ACAT-1 or ACAT-2 as well as dual inhibitors of ACAT-1 and -2; microsomal triglyceride transfer protein (MTP) inhibitors; endothelial lipase inhibitors; bile acid sequestrants; LDL receptor inducers; platelet aggregation inhibitors, for example glycoprotein IIb/IIIa fibrinogen receptor antagonists and aspirin; human peroxisome proliferator activated receptor gamma (PPAR $\gamma$ ) agonists including the compounds commonly referred to as glitazones, for example, pioglitazone and rosiglitazone and, including those compounds included within the structural class known as thiazolidine diones as well as those PPAR $\delta$  agonists outside the thiazolidine dione structural class; PPAR $\alpha$  agonists such as clofibrate, fenofibrate including micronized fenofibrate, and gemfibrozil; PPAR dual  $\alpha/\gamma$  agonists; vitamin B<sub>6</sub> (also known as pyridoxine) and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof such as the HCl salt; vitamin B<sub>12</sub> (also known as cyanocobalamin); folic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof such as the sodium salt and the methylglucamine salt; anti-oxidant vitamins such as vitamin C and E and beta carotene; beta-blockers; angiotensin II antagonists such as losartan; angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors such as enalapril and captopril; renin inhibitors, calcium channel blockers such as nifedipine and diltiazem; endothelin antagonists; agents that enhance ABCA1 gene expression; cholesteryl ester transfer protein (CETP) inhibiting compounds, 5-lipoxygenase activating protein (FLAP) inhibiting compounds, 5-lipoxygenase (5-LO) inhibiting compounds, farnesoid X receptor (FXR) ligands including both antagonists and agonists; Liver X Receptor (LXR)-alpha ligands, LXR-beta ligands, bisphosphonate compounds such as alendronate sodium; cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitors such as rofecoxib and celecoxib; and compounds that attenuate vascular inflammation.

Cholesterol absorption inhibitors can also be used in the present invention. Such compounds block the movement of cholesterol from the intestinal lumen into enterocytes of the small

intestinal wall, thus reducing serum cholesterol levels. Examples of cholesterol absorption inhibitors are described in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,846,966, 5,631,365, 5,767,115, 6,133,001, 5,886,171, 5,856,473, 5,756,470, 5,739,321, 5,919,672, and in PCT application Nos. WO 00/63703, WO 00/60107, WO 00/38725, WO 00/34240, WO 00/20623, WO 97/45406, WO 97/16424, WO 97/16455, and WO 95/08532. The most notable cholesterol absorption inhibitor is ezetimibe, also known as 1-(4-fluorophenyl)-3(R)-[3(S)-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-hydroxypropyl]-4(S)-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-azetidinone, described in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,767,115 and 5,846,966.

Therapeutically effective amounts of cholesterol absorption inhibitors include dosages of from about 0.01 mg/kg to about 30 mg/kg of body weight per day, preferably about 0.1 mg/kg to about 15 mg/kg.

For diabetic patients, the compounds used in the present invention can be administered with conventional diabetic medications. For example, a diabetic patient receiving treatment as described herein may also be taking insulin or an oral antidiabetic medication. One example of an oral antidiabetic medication useful herein is metformin.

#### SALTS AND SOLVATES

Numerous pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of the compound of formula I are useful in the present invention. Alkali metal salts, in particular, sodium and potassium, form salts that are useful as described herein. Likewise alkaline earth metals, in particular, calcium and magnesium, form salts that are useful as described herein. Various salts of amines, such as ammonium and substituted ammonium compounds also form salts that are useful as described herein. Similarly, solvated forms of the compound of formula I are useful within the present invention. Examples include the hemihydrate, mono-, di-, tri- and sesquihydrate. Of particular interest for use in the present invention is the sodium salt of the compound of formula I, and in particular, the monosodium salt.

#### PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS

The pharmaceutical compositions described herein are generally comprised of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, a DP receptor antagonist and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. The compounds used in the present invention can be administered via any conventional route of administration. The preferred route of administration is oral.

Examples of suitable oral compositions include tablets, capsules, troches, lozenges, suspensions, dispersible powders or granules, emulsions, syrups and elixirs. Examples of carrier ingredients include diluents, binders, disintegrants, lubricants, sweeteners, flavors, colorants, preservatives and the like. Examples of diluents include, for example, calcium carbonate, sodium carbonate, lactose, calcium phosphate and sodium phosphate. Examples of granulating and disintegrants include corn starch and alginic acid. Examples of binding agents include starch, gelatin and acacia. Examples of lubricants include magnesium stearate, calcium stearate, stearic acid and talc. The tablets

may be uncoated or coated. Such coatings may delay disintegration and thus, absorption in the gastrointestinal tract and thereby provide a sustained action over a longer period.

In one embodiment of the invention, the compound of formula I or a salt or a solvate thereof, is combined with the DP receptor antagonist and the carrier to form a fixed combination product.

5 This fixed combination product may be a tablet or capsule for oral use.

More particularly, in another embodiment of the invention, the compound of formula I or a salt or solvate thereof, (about 1 to about 3000 mg) and the DP antagonist (about 1 to about 500 mg) are combined with the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, providing a tablet or capsule for oral use.

10 Sustained release over a longer period of time may be particularly important in the formulation of pharmaceutical compositions. For example, a time delay material such as glyceryl monostearate or glyceryl distearate may be employed. The dosage form may also be coated by the techniques described in the U.S. Patent Nos. 4,256,108; 4,166,452 and 4,265,874 to form osmotic therapeutic tablets for controlled release.

15 Other controlled release technologies are also available and are included herein. Typical ingredients that are useful to slow the release of the active ingredients in sustained release tablets include various cellulosic compounds, such as methylcellulose, ethylcellulose, propylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, microcrystalline cellulose, starch and the like. Various natural and synthetic materials are also of use in sustained release formulations. Examples include alginic acid and various alginates, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, tragacanth, locust bean gum, guar gum, gelatin, various long chain alcohols, such as cetyl alcohol and beeswax.

20 A sustained release tablet that is of particular interest utilizes a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof in combination with one or more of the cellulosic compounds noted above, compressed into a sustained release tablet to form a polymer matrix. The DP antagonist compound can be incorporated into the blend before compression, or can be coated onto the outer surface of the matrix.

In an embodiment that is of more interest, the compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and matrix-forming material are combined and compressed to form a sustained release core, and the DP antagonist compound is blended with one or more coating agents and coated onto the outer surface of the core.

30 Optionally and of even more interest is a tablet as described above, further coated with an HMG Co-A reductase inhibitor, for example, simvastatin. This particular embodiment thus contains three active ingredients, the HMG Co-A reductase inhibitor and the DP antagonist, which may be releasable substantially upon ingestion, and the compound of formula I or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof which may be releasable over a longer period of time as described above.

35 Typical release time frames for sustained release tablets in accordance with the present invention range from about 1 to as long as about 48 hours, preferably about 4 to about 24 hours, and more preferably about 8 to about 16 hours.

Hard gelatin capsules constitute another solid dosage form for oral use. Such capsules similarly include the active ingredients mixed with carrier materials as described above. Soft gelatin capsules include the active ingredients mixed with water-miscible solvents such as propylene glycol, PEG and ethanol, or an oil such as peanut oil, liquid paraffin or olive oil.

5           Aqueous suspensions are also contemplated as containing the active material in admixture with excipients suitable for the manufacture of aqueous suspensions. Such excipients include suspending agents, for example sodium carboxymethylcellulose, methylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, sodium alginate, polyvinylpyrrolidone, tragacanth and acacia; dispersing or wetting agents, e.g., lecithin; preservatives, e.g., ethyl, or n-propyl para-hydroxybenzoate, colorants, 10           flavors, sweeteners and the like.

Dispersible powders and granules suitable for preparation of an aqueous suspension by the addition of water provide the active ingredients in admixture with a dispersing or wetting agent, suspending agent and one or more preservatives. Suitable dispersing or wetting agents and suspending agents are exemplified by those already mentioned above.

15           Syrups and elixirs may also be formulated.

The pharmaceutical composition that is of particular interest is a tablet that is comprised of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and a DP receptor antagonist in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20           Another pharmaceutical composition that is of particular interest is a tablet that is comprised of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, a DP receptor antagonist and an HMG Co-A reductase inhibitor in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

25           More particularly, another pharmaceutical composition that is of more particular interest is a tablet that is comprised of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, a DP receptor antagonist and simvastatin in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

30           Yet another pharmaceutical composition that is of particular interest is a sustained release tablet that is comprised of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, and a DP receptor antagonist that is selected from the group consisting of compounds A through AJ in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Yet another pharmaceutical composition that is of more interest is comprised of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and a DP antagonist compound selected from the group consisting of compounds A, B, D, E, X, AA, AF, AG, AH, AI and AJ, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

35           Yet another pharmaceutical composition that is of particular interest is comprised of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and DP antagonist compound A in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Yet another pharmaceutical composition that is of more interest is comprised of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and DP antagonist compound B in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

5 Yet another pharmaceutical composition that is of more interest is comprised of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and DP antagonist compound D in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Yet another pharmaceutical composition that is of more interest is comprised of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and DP antagonist compound E in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10 Yet another pharmaceutical composition that is of more interest is comprised of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and DP antagonist compound X in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Yet another pharmaceutical composition that is of more interest is comprised of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and DP antagonist compound AA in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

15 Yet another pharmaceutical composition that is of more interest is comprised of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and DP antagonist compound AF in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20 Yet another pharmaceutical composition that is of more interest is comprised of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and DP antagonist compound AG in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Yet another pharmaceutical composition that is of more interest is comprised of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and DP antagonist compound AH in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

25 Yet another pharmaceutical composition that is of more interest is comprised of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and DP antagonist compound AI in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Yet another pharmaceutical composition that is of more interest is comprised of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and DP antagonist compound AJ in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

30 Yet another pharmaceutical composition that is of even more interest is comprised of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, one of the DP antagonist compounds noted above and simvastatin in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

35 Yet another pharmaceutical composition that is of more interest is a sustained release tablet that is comprised of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, a DP receptor antagonist that is selected from the group consisting of compounds A through AJ and simvastatin in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Yet another pharmaceutical composition that is of more particular interest relates to a sustained release tablet that is comprised of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, a DP receptor antagonist selected from the group consisting of compounds A, B, D, E, X, AA, AF, AG, AH, AI and AJ, and simvastatin in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

"Composition", in addition to encompassing the pharmaceutical compositions described above, also encompasses any product which results, directly or indirectly, from the combination, complexation or aggregation of any two or more of the ingredients, active or excipient, or from dissociation of one or more of the ingredients, or from other types of reactions or interactions of one or more of the ingredients. Accordingly, the pharmaceutical composition of the present invention encompasses any composition made by admixing or otherwise combining the compounds, any additional active ingredient(s), and the pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

Another aspect of the invention relates to the use of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, and a DP antagonist in the manufacture of a medicament. This medicament has the uses described herein.

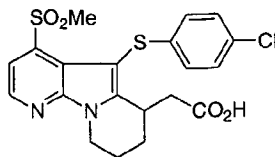
More particularly, another aspect of the invention relates to the use of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, a DP antagonist and an HMG Co-A reductase inhibitor, such as simvastatin, in the manufacture of a medicament. This medicament has the uses described herein.

Numerous DP receptor antagonist compounds have been published and are useful and included in the methods and compositions of the present invention. For example, DP receptor antagonists can be obtained in accordance with WO01/79169 published on October 25, 2001, EP 1305286 published on May 2, 2003, WO02/094830 published on November 28, 2002 and WO03/062200 published on July 31, 2003.

Compound AB can be synthesized in accordance with the description set forth in WO01/66520A1 published on September 13, 2001. Compound AC can be synthesized in accordance with the description set forth in WO03/022814A1 published on March 20, 2003, and Compounds AD and AE can be synthesized in accordance with the description set forth in WO03/078409 published on September 25, 2003. Other representative DP antagonist compounds used in the present invention can be synthesized in accordance with the description provided in WO2004/103,370A1, published on December 2, 2004.

#### EXAMPLE 1

[5-[(4-Chlorophenyl)thio]-4-(methylsulfonyl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[3,2-b]indolizin-6-yl]acetic acid  
(Compound G)



Step 1 4-Chloronicotinaldehyde

The title compound was prepared as described by F. Marsais et al., J. Heterocyclic  
5 Chem., 25, 81 (1988).

Step 2 4-(Methylthio)nicotinaldehyde

To a solution of NaSMe (9.5 g, 135 mmol) in MeOH (250 mL) was added the 4-  
chloronicotinaldehyde (13.5 g, 94.4 mmol) of Step 1 in MeOH (250 mL). The reaction mixture was  
10 maintained at 60°C for 15 min. The reaction mixture was poured over NH<sub>4</sub>Cl and EtOAc. The organic  
phase was separated, washed with H<sub>2</sub>O and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The compound was then purified over  
silica gel with 50% EtOAc in Hexanes to provide the title compound.

Step 3 Methyl (2Z)-2-azido-3-[4-(methylthio)pyridin-3-yl]prop-2-enoate

A solution of 4-(methylthio)nicotinealdehyde (4.8 g, 31 mmol) and methyl azidoacetate  
(9.0 g, 78 mmol) in MeOH (50 mL) was added to a solution of 25% NaOMe in MeOH (16.9 mL, 78  
mmol) at -12°C. The internal temperature was monitored and maintained at -10°C to -12°C during the  
30 min. addition. The resulting mixture was then stirred in an ice bath for several hours, followed by  
overnight in an ice bath in the cold room. The suspension was then poured onto a mixture of ice and  
20 NH<sub>4</sub>Cl, and the slurry was filtered after 10 min. of stirring. The product was washed with cold H<sub>2</sub>O and  
was then dried under vacuum to give the title compound as a beige solid, which contained some salts.  
The compound is then purified over silica gel with EtOAc.

Step 4 Methyl 4-(methylthio)-1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine-2-carboxylate

A suspension of the compound of Step 3 (0.40 g, 1.6 mmol) in xylenes (16 mL) was  
heated slowly to 140°C. After a period of 15 min. at 140°C, the yellow solution was cooled to room  
temperature. Precaution must be taken due to the possibility of an exotherme due to the formation of  
nitrogen. The suspension was then cooled to 0°C, filtered and washed with xylene to provide the title  
compound.

Step 5 Ethyl 4-(methylthio)-6-oxo-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[3,2-b]indolizine-7-carboxylate

To a solution of the compound of Step 4 (0.35 g, 1.6 mmol) in DMF (20 mL) at 0°C was  
added NaH (1.2 eq.). After a period of 5 min., nBu<sub>4</sub>NI (0.10 g) and ethyl 4-bromobutyrate (0.40 mL).  
were added. After a period of 1 h at room temperature, the reaction mixture was poured over saturated  
35 NH<sub>4</sub>Cl and EtOAc. The organic phase was separated, washed with H<sub>2</sub>O and dried over NaSO<sub>4</sub>. After



evaporation the crude product was purified by flash chromatography. The bis ester was then dissolved in THF (7.0 mL) and a 1.06 M of THF solution of potassium tert-butoxide (2.2 mL) was added at 0°C. After a period of 1 h at room temperature, the reaction mixture was then poured over saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl and EtOAc. The organic phase was separated, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated under reduced  
5 pressure to provide the title compound as a mixture of ethyl and methyl ester.

Step 6 4-(Methylthio)-8,9-dihydropyrido[3,2-b]indolizin-6(7H)-one

To the compound of Step 5, (0.32 g) were added EtOH (8.0 mL) and concentrated HCl (2.0 mL). The resulting suspension was refluxed for 5 h. The reaction mixture was partitioned between  
10 EtOAc and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. The organic phase was separated and evaporated to provide the title compound.

Step 7 Ethyl (2E, 2Z)-[4-(methylthio)-8,9-dihydropyrido[3,2-b]indolizin-6(7H)-ylidene]ethanoate

To a DMF solution (12 mL) of triethyl phosphonoacetate (0.45 g, 2.17 mmol) were  
15 added 80% NaH (0.06 g, 2.00 mmol) and the compound of Step 6 (0.22 g, 1.00 mmole). After a period of 4 h at 55°C, the reaction mixture was poured over saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl and EtOAc. The organic phase was separated and evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography to afford the title compound.

Step 8 Ethyl [4-(methylthio)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[3,2-b]indolizin-6-yl]acetate

The compound of Step 7 was dissolved in MeOH – THF using heat for dissolution. To the previous cooled solution was added at room temperature PtO<sub>2</sub> and the resulting mixture was maintained for 18 h under an atmospheric pressure of hydrogen. The reaction mixture was filtered carefully over Celite using CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The filtrate was evaporated under reduced pressure to provide the  
25 title compound. Alternatively, the compound of Step 7 can be hydrogenated with Pd (OH)<sub>2</sub> in EtOAc at 40 PSI of H<sub>2</sub> for 18h.

Step 9 Ethyl [4-(methylsulfonyl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[3,2-b]indolizin-6-yl]acetate

To the compound of Step 8 (0.08 g, 0.27 mmol) in MeOH (3.0 mL) were added  
30 Na<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub> (0.10 g) and 30% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (600 µL). After a period of 1 h, the reaction mixture was partitioned between H<sub>2</sub>O and EtOAc. The organic phase was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O, separated and evaporated. The title compound was purified by flash chromatography.

Step 10 Ethyl [5-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-4-(methylsulfonyl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[3,2-b]indolizin-6-yl]acetate

To a 1,2-dichloroethane solution (2.0 mL) of 4,4'-dichlorodiphenyl disulfide (0.24 g) was added SO<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (50 µL). To the compound of Step 9 (0.05 g) in DMF (2.0 mL) was added the

previous mixture ( $\approx 180 \mu\text{L}$ ). The reaction was followed by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and maintained at room temperature until no starting material remained. The reaction mixture was poured over saturated  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  and  $\text{EtOAc}$ . The organic phase was separated, evaporated and the title compound purified by flash chromatography.

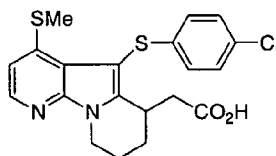
**Step 11** [5-[(4-Chlorophenyl)thio]-4-(methylsulfonyl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido [3,2-b]indolizin-6-yl]acetic acid

To the compound of Step 10 dissolved in a 1/1 mixture of THF-MeOH was added 1N NaOH. After a period of 18 h at room temperature, the reaction mixture was partitioned between saturated  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  and  $\text{EtOAc}$ . The organic phase was separated, dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and evaporated to provide the title compound.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  11.00 (bs, 1H), 8.60 (d, 1H), 7.80 (d, 1H), 7.20 (d, 2H), 7.00 (d, 2H), 4.65 (m, 1H), 4.20 (m, 1H), 3.75 (m, 1H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 2.80 to 2.10 (m, 6H).

**EXAMPLE 2**

[5-[(4-Chlorophenyl)thio]-4-(methylthio)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[3,2-b]indolizin-6-yl]acetic acid (Compound H)

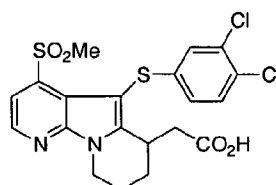


The title compound can be prepared from the compound of Example 1, Step 8 in a similar manner as described in Example 1, Step 10 and 11.

$m/z$  418.

**EXAMPLE 3**

[5-[(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)thio]-4-(methylsulfonyl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[3,2-b] indolizin-6-yl]acetic acid (Compound I)



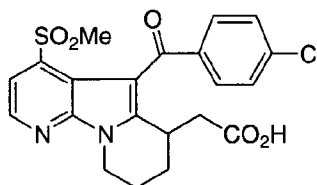
The title compound was prepared as described in Example 1 using bis(3,4-dichlorophenyl)disulfide in Step 10.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  8.55 (d, 1H), 7.85 (d, 1H), 7.35 (d, 1H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 6.95 (d, 1H), 4.60 (m, 1H), 4.15 (m, 1H), 3.80 (m, 1H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 2.80 to 2.10 (m, 6H).  
m/z 484.

The enantiomers were separated on a Chiralcel OD column 25 cm x 20 mm using 30 % isopropanol 17 % ethanol 0.2 % acetic acid in hexane, flow rate 8 ml/min. Their purities were verified on a Chiralcel OD column 25 cm x 4.6 mm using 35 % isopropanol 0.2 % acetic acid in hexane, flow rate 1.0 ml/min. More mobile enantiomer Tr = 9.7 min, less mobile enantiomer Tr 11.1 min.

#### EXAMPLE 4

[5-(4-Chlorobenzoyl)-4-(methylsulfonyl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[3,2-*b*]indolizin-6-yl]acetic acid (Compound J)



Step 1 Ethyl [5-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-4-(methylthio)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[3,2-*b*]indolizin-6-yl]acetate

To a solution of 4-chlorobenzoyl chloride (0.30 g, 1.7 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (6.0 mL) was added  $\text{AlCl}_3$  (0.24 g, 1.8 mmole). After a period of 5 min. a solution of ethyl [4-(methylthio)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[3,2-*b*]indolizin-6-yl]acetate from Example 1 Step 8 (0.15 g, 0.47 mmole) in 1,2-dichloroethane (6.0 mL) was added to the previous mixture. After a period of 4h, at 80°C, the reaction mixture was partitioned between EtOAc and  $\text{NaHCO}_3$ . The organic phase was separated, dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and evaporated. The title compound was purified by flash chromatography.

Step 2 Ethyl [5-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-4-(methylsulfonyl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[3,2-*b*]indolizin-6-yl]acetate

To a solution of ethyl[5-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-4-(methylthio)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[3,2-*b*]indolizin-6-yl] acetate (0.12 g, 0.27 mmole) in MeOH (5.0 mL) were added  $\text{Na}_2\text{WO}_4$  (0.1 g) and 30%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (300  $\mu\text{L}$ ). The reaction mixture was stirred at 55°C for 1h. The reaction mixture was then partitioned between  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and EtOAc. The organic phase was washed with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and evaporated. The title compound was purified by flash chromatography.

Step 3 [5-(4-Chlorobenzoyl)-4-(methylsulfonyl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[3,2-*b*]indolizin-6-yl]acetic acid

Ethyl [5-(4-chlorobenzoyl)-4-(methylsulfonyl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[3,2-b]indolizin-6-yl]acetate was treated as described in Example 1 Step 11 to provide the title compound.

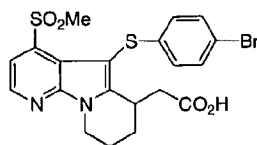
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.55 (d, 1H), 7.90 (d, 2H), 7.65 (d, 1H), 7.45 (d, 2H), 4.55 (m, 1H), 4.25 (m, 1H), 3.45 (m, 1H), 3.20 (s, 3H), 2.05 to 3.00 (m, 6H).

5 m/z 446.

#### EXAMPLE 5

[5-(4-Bromophenyl)thio]-4-(methylsulfonyl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[3,2-b]indolizin-6-yl]acetic acid  
(Compound K)

10



The title compound was prepared as described in Example 1 using 4,4'-dibromodiphenyl disulfide.

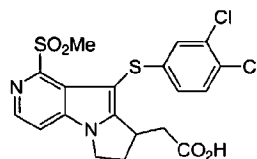
15

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, Acetone-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.60 (d, 1H), 7.80 (d, 1H), 7.35 (d, 2H), 7.00 (d, 2H), 4.65 (m, 1H), 4.20 (m, 1H), 3.80 (m, 1H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 2.80 to 2.10 (m, 6H).

#### EXAMPLE 6 METHOD-1

[9-[(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)thio]-1-(methylsulfonyl)-7,8-dihydro-6H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-yl]acetic acid  
(Compound L)

20



##### Step 1 2-(Methylthio)nicotinaldehyde

25

The title compound was prepared from 2-bromonicotinaldehyde (A. Numata *Synthesis* 1999 p.306) as described in Example 1 Step 2 except the solution was heated at 55°C for 2 hr.

##### Step 2 Methyl (2Z)-2-azido-3-[2-(methylthio)pyridin-3-yl]prop-2-enoate

30

The title compound was prepared as described in Example 1 Step 3.

##### Step 3 Methyl 4-(methylthio)-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carboxylate

A solution of methyl (2Z)-2-azido-3-[2-(methylthio)pyridin-3-yl]prop-2-enoate (1.00 g, 4.00 mmol) in mesitylene (50 mL) was heated at 160°C for a period of 1 h. The reaction mixture was

cooled to room temperature then to 0°C, the precipitate was filtered and washed with cold mesitylene to provide the title compound.

Step 4 Methyl 1-(methylthio)-8-oxo-7,8-dihydro-6H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizine-7-carboxylate

To a suspension of methyl 4-(methylthio)-1*H*-pyrrolo[3,2-*c*]pyridine-2-carboxylate (0.30 g, 1.35 mmol) in THF (3 mL)- toluene (12.0 mL) were added a 1.06 M THF solution of potassium tert-butoxide (1.42 mL / 1.41 mmol) and methyl acrylate (300 µL). The resulting mixture was heated at 80°C for 18h. The mixture was partitioned between EtOAc and NH<sub>4</sub>Cl, and filtered through Celite. The organic phase was separated, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and filtered, to provide the title compound.

Step 5 1-(Methylthio)-6,7-dihydro-8H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-one

Methyl 1-(methylthio)-8-oxo-7,8-dihydro-6*H*-pyrido[3,4-*b*] pyrrolizine-7-carboxylate was converted to the title compound as described in Example 1 Step 6.

Step 6 Methyl [8-hydroxy-1-(methylthio)-7,8-dihydro-6H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-yl]acetate

A mixture of 1-(methylthio)-6,7-dihydro-8*H*-pyrido[3,4-*b*]pyrrolizin-8-one (0.15 g, 0.68 mmol), methyl bromoacetate (0.34 mL), Zn-Cu (0.226 g) in THF (3.0 mL) was sonicated for 2 h. The mixture was then heated at 60°C for 5 min. until completion of the reaction. The reaction mixture was partitioned between EtOAc and NH<sub>4</sub>Cl. The organic phase was separated, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure to provide the title compound. The compound was purified by flash chromatography.

Step 7 Methyl [1-(methylthio)-7,8-dihydro-6H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-yl]acetate

To NaI (0.300 g) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (3.2 mL) was added TMSCl (0.266 mL). This mixture was added to a suspension of methyl [8-hydroxy-1-(methylthio)-7,8-dihydro-6*H*-pyrido[3,4-*b*]pyrrolizin-8-yl] acetate (0.15 g, 0.515 mmol) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (1.5 mL), in a water bath. After a period of 0.5 h, the reaction mixture was partitioned between EtOAc and NaHCO<sub>3</sub>. The organic phase was separated, washed with sodium thiosulphate, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated. The title compound was purified by flash chromatography.

Step 8 Methyl [1-(methylsulfonyl)-7,8-dihydro-6H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-yl]acetate

Methyl [1-(methylthio)-7,8-dihydro-6*H*-pyrido[3,4-*b*]pyrrolizin-8-yl]acetate was converted to the title compound as described in Example 1 Step 9.

Step 9 [9-[(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)thio]-1-(methylsulfonyl)-7,8-dihydro-6H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-yl]acetic acid

Methyl [1-(methylsulfonyl)-7,8-dihydro-6H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-yl]acetate was converted to the title compound as described in Example 1, Steps 10 and 11, using bis (3,4-dichlorophenyl)disulfide in Step 10.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.35 (d, 1H) 7.80 (d, 1H), 7.35 (d, 1H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 6.95 (d, 1H), 4.55 (m, 1H), 4.35 (m, 1H), 3.90 (m, 1H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 3.15 (m, 1H), 3.05 (m, 1H), 2.80 (m, 1H), 2.50 (m, 1H).

#### EXAMPLE 6 METHOD-2

[9-[(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)thio]-1-(methylsulfonyl)-7,8-dihydro-6H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-yl]acetic acid

##### Step 1 1-(Methylthio)-7,8-dihydro-6H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-ol

To a suspension of 1-(methylthio)-6,7-dihydro-8H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-one from Example 6, Method-1 Step 5 (0.55 g, 2.2 mmol) in EtOH (10 mL)-THF (1 mL) was added NaBH<sub>4</sub> (0.10 g, 2.6 mmol) at 0°C. After a period of 30 min. at room temperature, the reaction was quenched by the addition of acetone. The solvents were evaporated under reduced pressure and EtOAc and H<sub>2</sub>O were added to the residue. The organic phase was separated, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated. The title compound was washed with EtOAc/Hexane and filtered.

##### Step 2 Dimethyl 2-[1-(methylthio)-7,8-dihydro-6H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-yl]malonate

To a suspension of 1-(methylthio)-7,8-dihydro-6H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-ol (0.54 g, 2.1 mmol) in THF (10 mL) at -78°C were added 1M NaHMDS in THF (2.35 mL, 2.4 mmol) and diphenyl chlorophosphate (0.53 mL, 2.6 mmol). After a period of 30 min. dimethyl malonate (0.73 mL, 6.4 mmol) and 1M NaHMDS in THF (6.8 mL, 6.8 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was brought to 0°C and then to room temperature. The mixture was then partitioned between ETOAc and NH<sub>4</sub>Cl. The organic phase was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated. The title compound was purified by flash chromatography.

##### Step 3 Methyl [1-(methylthio)-7,8-dihydro-6H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-yl]-acetate

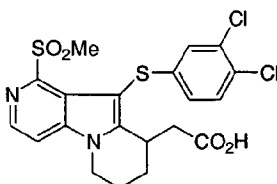
To a mixture of dimethyl 2-[1-(methylthio)-7,8-dihydro-6H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-yl]malonate (0.59 g, 2.17 mmol) and DMSO (4mL) was added NaCl (0.45 g) in H<sub>2</sub>O (0.45 mL). After a period of 18 h at 150°C, the reaction mixture was partitioned between ETOAc and H<sub>2</sub>O. The organic phase was separated, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated. The title compound was then purified by flash chromatography.

##### Step 4 [9-[(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)thio]-1-(methylsulfonyl)-7,8-dihydro-6H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-yl]acetic acid

The title compound was obtained from methyl [1-(methylthio)-7,8-dihydro-6H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-yl]acetate as described in Example 6, Method-1, Steps 8 to 9.

#### EXAMPLE 7

5 [10-[(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)sulfanyl]-1-(methylsulfonyl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[3,4-b]indolizin-9-yl]acetic acid (Compound M)



10 Step 1 Ethyl [1-(methylsulfonyl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[3,4-b]indolizin-9-yl]acetate

The title compound was prepared from the product of Example 6, Step 3 in the same manner as described in Example 1, Steps 5 to 9.

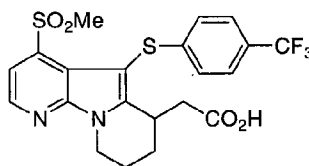
15 Step 2 [10-[(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)sulfanyl]-1-(methylsulfonyl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[3,4-b]indolizin-9-yl]acetic acid

The product of Step 1 was converted to the title compound in the same manner as Example 1, Steps 10-11, using bis (3,4-dichlorophenyl)disulfide in Step 10.

MS M+1=485.

20 EXAMPLE 8

(4-(Methylsulfonyl)-5-[[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]thio]-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[3,2-b]indolizin-6-yl)acetic acid (Compound N)



25

The title compound was prepared as described in Example 1 using bis[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]disulfide.

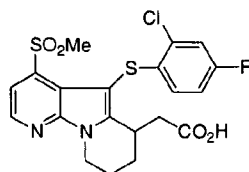
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.55 (d, 1H), 7.75 (d, 1H), 7.45 (d, 2H), 7.15 (d, 2H), 4.55 (m, 1H), 4.15 (m, 1H), 3.80 (m, 1H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 2.80 to 2.10 (m, 6H).

30

m/z 513 (M+1).

#### EXAMPLE 9

[5-[(2-Chloro-4-fluorophenyl)thio]-4-(methylsulfonyl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[3,2-b]indolizin-6-yl]acetic acid (Compound O)



5

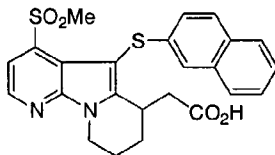
The title compound was prepared as described in Example 1 using bis(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)disulfide.

$m/z$  469 (M+1).

10

#### EXAMPLE 10

[4-(Methylsulfonyl)-5-(2-naphthylthio)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[3,2-b]indolizin-6-yl]acetic acid (Compound P)



15

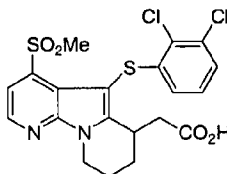
The title compound was prepared as described in Example 1 using di(2-naphthyl)disulfide.

$M/z$  467 (M+1).

20

#### EXAMPLE 11

[5-[(2,3-Dichlorophenyl)thio]-4-(methylsulfonyl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[3,2-b]indolizin-6-yl]acetic acid (Compound Q)



25

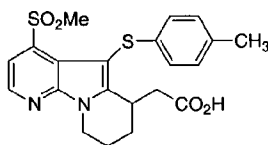
The title compound was prepared as described in Example 1 using bis(2,3-dichlorophenyl)disulfide.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  8.85 (d, 1H), 7.80 (d, 1H), 7.30 (d, 1H), 7.00 (t, 1H), 6.60 (d, 1H), 4.60 (m, 1H), 4.20 (m, 1H), 3.80 (m, 1H), 3.40 (s, 3H), 2.80 to 2.10 (m, 6H).



EXAMPLE 12

[5-[(4-Methylphenyl)thio]-4-(methylsulfonyl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[3,2-*b*]indolizin-6-yl]acetic acid  
(Compound R)



5

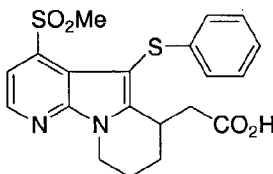
The title compound was prepared as described in Example 1 using p-tolyl disulfide.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.55 (d, 1H), 7.80 (d, 1H), 6.95 (m, 4H), 4.60 (m, 1H), 4.15 (m, 1H), 3.80 (m, 1H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 2.80 to 2.10 (m, 6H).

10

EXAMPLE 13

[4-(Methylsulfonyl)-5-(phenylthio)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[3,2-*b*]indolizin-6-yl]acetic acid  
(Compound S)



15

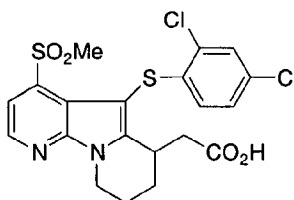
The title compound was prepared as described in Example 1 using diphenyl disulfide.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.55 (d, 1H), 7.80 (d, 1H), 7.15 to 6.90 (m, 5H), 4.60 (m, 1H), 4.15 (m, 1H), 3.75 (m, 1H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 2.80 to 2.10 (m, 6H).

EXAMPLE 14

[5-[(2,4-Dichlorophenyl)thio]-4-(methylsulfonyl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[3,2-*b*]indolizin-6-yl]acetic acid  
(Compound T)

20



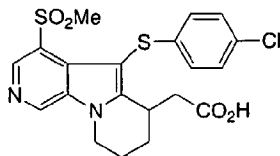
The title compound was prepared as described in Example 1 using bis(2,4-dichlorophenyl)disulfide. The disulfide was prepared from 2,4-dichlorothiophenyl using Br<sub>2</sub> in ether.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.55 (d, 1H), 7.85 (d, 1H), 7.35 (s, 1H), 7.00 (d, 1H), 6.65 (d, 1H), 4.55 (m, 1H), 4.15 (m, 1H), 3.80 (m, 1H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 2.80 to 2.10 (m, 6H).

25

EXAMPLE 15

[5-[(4-Chlorophenyl)thio]-4-(methylsulfonyl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydropyrido[4,3-b]indolizin-6-yl]acetic acid  
(Compound U)

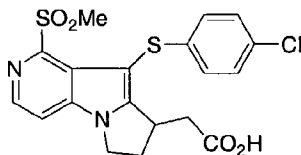


The title compound was prepared as described in Example 1 from 3-chloronicotinaldehyde (Heterocycles p. 151, 1993) except the terminal cyclization was performed by adding the azide to decalin at reflux.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 9.20 (s, 1H), 8.85 (s, 1H), 7.20 (d, 2H), 7.00 (d, 2H), 4.70 (m, 1H), 4.30 (m, 1H), 3.75 (m, 1H), 3.35 (s, 3H), 2.80 to 2.10 (m, 6H).

EXAMPLE 16

[9-[(4-Chlorophenyl)thio]-1-(methylsulfonyl)-7,8-dihydro-6H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-yl]acetic acid  
(Compound V)

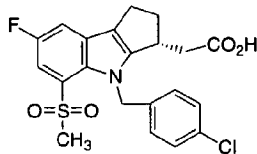


The title compound was prepared from the product of Example 6 Method 1 Step 8, as described in the procedures outlined in Example 1 Steps 10 and 11, using bis (4-chlorophenyl)disulfide in Step 10.

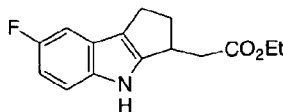
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, acetone-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.25-8.3 (m, 1H), 7.71-7.75 (m, 1H), 7.12-7.17 (m, 2H), 6.97-7.04 (m, 2H), 4.45-4.51 (m, 1H), 4.32-4.39 (m, 1H), 3.73-3.80 (m, 1H), 3.29 (s, 3H), 3.15-3.21 (m, 1H), 2.99-3.08 (m, 1H), 2.66-2.73 (m, 1H), 2.46-2.54 (m, 1H).

EXAMPLE 17

(-)-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)-7-fluoro-5-methanesulfonyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrocyclopenta[b]indol-3-yl]acetic acid  
(Compound E)



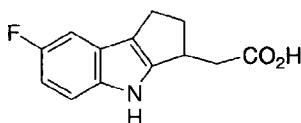
Step 1: (+/-)-(7-Fluoro-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrocyclopenta[b]indol-3-yl)acetic acid ethyl ester.



A solution of 10.00 g of 4-fluoro-2-iodoaniline, 6.57 g of ethyl 2-(2-oxocyclopentyl)acetate and 121 mg of p-toluenesulfonic acid in 100 ml of benzene was refluxed with a Dean-Stark trap under a N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere for 24h. After this time, the benzene was removed under  
 5 distillation. Then, 60ml of DMF was added and the solution was degassed before 19 ml of Hunig's base followed by 405 mg of Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> were added successively. The solution was heated to 115°C for 3 h, then cooled to room temperature. To quench the reaction, 300 ml of 1 N HCl and 200 ml of ethyl acetate were added and the mixture was filtered through Celite. The phases were separated and the acidic phase was extracted twice with 200 ml of ethyl acetate. The organic layers were combined, washed with brine,  
 10 dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered through Celite and concentrated. The crude material was further purified by flash chromatography eluting with 100% toluene, to provide the title compound.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (acetone-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 9.76 (br s, 1H), 7.34 (dd, 1H), 7.03 (d, 1H), 6.78 (td, 1H), 4.14 (q, 2H), 3.57 (m, 1H), 2.85-2.55 (m, 5H), 2.15 (m, 1H), 1.22 (t, 3H).

15 Step 2: (+/-)-(7-Fluoro-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrocyclopenta[b]indol-3-yl)acetic acid

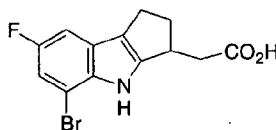


To a solution of 1.24 g of the ester from Step 1 in 14 mL of tetrahydrofuran (THF) at room temperature, 7 mL of MeOH followed by 7 mL of 2N NaOH were added. After 2.5 h, the reaction mixture was poured into a separatory funnel containing ethyl acetate (EtOAc)/1N HCl. The phases were  
 20 separated and the acidic phase was extracted twice with EtOAc. The organic layers were combined, washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated to dryness to yield a crude oil that was used as such in the next step (>90% purity).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (acetone-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 10.90 (br s, 1H), 9.77 (br s, 1H), 7.34 (dd, 1H), 7.04 (dd, 1H), 6.79 (td, 1H), 3.56 (m, 1H), 2.90-2.50 (m, 5H), 2.16 (m, 1H). MS (-APCI) m/z 232.2 (M-H).

25

Step 3: (+/-)-(5-bromo-7-fluoro-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrocyclopenta[b]indol-3-yl)acetic acid

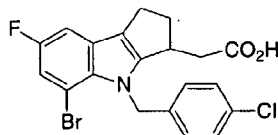


To a solution of 2.20 g of the acid from Step 2 (>90% purity) in 30 mL of pyridine, 6.85 g of pyridinium tribromide (90% purity) was added at -40°C. The suspension was stirred for 10 min at

0°C and warmed to room temperature for 30 min. Then, the solvent was removed without heating under high vacuum. The crude material was dissolved in 40 mL of AcOH and 2.88 g of Zn dust was added portion wise to the cold solution at 0°C. The suspension was stirred for 15 min at 15°C and warmed to room temperature for an additional 15 min. At this time, the reaction mixture was quenched by the addition of 1N HCl and this mixture was poured into a separatory funnel containing brine/EtOAc. The layers were separated and the organic layer was washed with water, brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. This material was used without further purification in the next step.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (acetone-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 10.77 (br s, 1H), 9.84 (br s, 1H), 7.09 (m, 2H), 3.60 (m, 1H), 2.95-2.65 (m, 4H), 2.56 (dd, 1H), 2.19 (m, 1H).

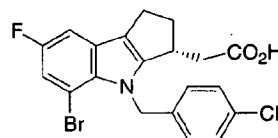
Step 4: (+/-)-[5-bromo-4-(4-chlorobenzyl)-7-fluoro-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrocyclopenta[b]indol-3-yl]-acetic acid



To a solution of 2.13 g of the acid from Step 3 in 10 mL of THF, a solution of diazomethane in ether was added in excess until complete consumption of the acid as monitored on TLC. Then, the solvents were removed under vacuum. To a solution of the crude methyl ester thus formed in 20 mL of DMF, 539 mg of a NaH suspension (60% in oil) was added at -78°C. The suspension was stirred for 10 min at 0°C, cooled again to -78°C and treated with 1.70 g of 4-chlorobenzyl bromide. After 5 min, the temperature was warmed to 0°C and the mixture was stirred for 20 min. At this time, the reaction was quenched by the addition of 2 mL of AcOH and this mixture was poured into a separatory funnel containing 1N HCl/EtOAc. The layers were separated and the organic layer was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The alkylated material was hydrolyzed using the procedure described in Step 2. The crude material was further purified by trituration with EtOAc/hexanes to provide the title compound.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (acetone-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 10.70 (br s, 1H), 7.31 (d, 2H), 7.18 (d, 1H), 7.06 (d, 1H), 6.92 (d, 2H), 5.90 (d, 1H), 5.74 (d, 1H), 3.61 (m, 1H), 3.00-2.70 (m, 3H), 2.65 (dd, 1H), 2.39 (dd, 1H), 2.26 (m, 1H). MS (-APCI) m/z 436.3, 434.5 (M-H).

Step 5: (+)-[5-bromo-4-(4-chlorobenzyl)-7-fluoro-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrocyclopenta[b]indol-3-yl]-acetic acid



To a solution of 2.35 g of the acid of Step 4 in 130 mL of EtOH at 80°C, was added 780  $\mu$ L of (S)-(-)-1-(1-naphthyl)ethylamine. The solution was cooled to room temperature and stirred overnight. The salt recovered (1.7 g) was recrystallized again with 200 mL of EtOH. After filtration, the white solid salt obtained was neutralized with 1N HCl and the product was extracted with EtOAc.

5 The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The material was filtered over a pad of SiO<sub>2</sub> by eluting with EtOAc to produce the title enantiomer. Retention times of the two enantiomers were respectively 7.5 min and 9.4 min [ChiralPak AD column, hexane/2-propanol/acetic acid (95:5:0.1)]. The more polar enantiomer was in 98% ee.

ee = 98%; Retention time = 9.4 min [ChiralPak AD column: 250 x 4.6 mm, hexanes/2-propanol/acetic acid (75:25:0.1)]; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>21</sup> = +39.2° (c 1.0, MeOH).

10

Step 6: (-)-[4-(4-chlorobenzyl)-7-fluoro-5-(methanesulfonyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrocyclopenta[b]-indol-3-yl]acetic acid and sodium salt

The acid from Step 5 (15.4 g) was first esterified with diazomethane. The sulfonylation

15 was accomplished by mixing the ester thus formed with 16.3 g of methanesulfinic acid sodium salt and 30.2 g of CuI (I) in N-methylpyrrolidinone. The suspension was degassed under a flow of N<sub>2</sub>, heated to 150°C and stirred for 3h, then cooled to room temperature. To quench the reaction, 500 ml of ethyl acetate and 500 ml of hexanes were added and the mixture was filtered through a pad of SiO<sub>2</sub> by eluting with EtOAc. The organic phases were concentrated. The crude oil was dissolved with EtOAc, washed

20 three times with water one time with brine, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated. The crude material was further purified by flash chromatography eluting with a gradient from 100% toluene to 50% toluene in EtOAc, to provide the sulfonated ester, which was hydrolyzed using the procedure described in Step 2. The title compound was obtained after two successive recrystallizations: isopropyl acetate / heptane followed by CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> / hexanes.

25 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz acetone-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  10.73 (br s, 1H), 7.57 (d, 2H, *J*=8.8 Hz), 7.31 (m, 1H), 7.29 (m, 1H), 6.84 (d, 2H, *J*=8.8 Hz), 6.29 (d, 1H, *J*<sub>AB</sub>=17.8 Hz), 5.79 (d, 1H, *J*<sub>AB</sub>=17.8 Hz), 3.43 (m, 1H), 2.98 (s, 3H), 2.94 (m, 1H), 2.85-2.65 (m, 3H), 2.42 (dd, 1H, *J*<sub>1</sub>=16.1 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub>=10.3 Hz), 2.27 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz acetone-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  173.0, 156.5 (d, *J*<sub>CF</sub>=237 Hz), 153.9, 139.2, 133.7, 133.3, 130.0 (d, *J*<sub>CF</sub>=8.9 Hz), 129.6, 128.2, 127.5 (d, *J*<sub>CF</sub>=7.6 Hz), 122.2 (d, *J*<sub>CF</sub>=4.2 Hz), 112.3 (d, *J*<sub>CF</sub>=29.4 Hz), 111.0 (d, *J*<sub>CF</sub>=22.6 Hz), 50.8, 44.7, 38.6, 36.6, 36.5, 23.3. MS (-APCI) *m/z* 436.1, 434.1 (M-H)<sup>+</sup>.

30 ee = 97%; Retention time = 15.3 min [ChiralCel OD column: 250 x 4.6 mm, hexanes/2-propanol/ethanol/acetic acid (90:5:5:0.2)]; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>21</sup> = -29.3° (c 1.0, MeOH). Mp 175.0°C.

The sodium salt was prepared by the treatment of 6.45 g (14.80 mmol) of the above acid compound in EtOH (100 mL) with 14.80 mL of an aqueous 1N NaOH solution. The organic solvent was

35 removed under vacuum and the crude solid was dissolved in 1.2L of isopropyl alcohol under reflux. The final volume was reduced to 500 mL by distillation of the solvent. The sodium salt crystallized by

cooling to rt. The crystalline sodium salt was suspended in H<sub>2</sub>O, frozen with a dry ice bath and lyophilized under high vacuum to give the title compound as the sodium salt.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 7.63 (dd, 1H, J<sub>1</sub>=8.5 Hz, J<sub>2</sub>=2.6 Hz), 7.47 (dd, 1H, J<sub>1</sub>=9.7 Hz, J<sub>2</sub>=2.6 Hz), 7.33 (d, 2H, J=8.4 Hz), 6.70 (d, 2H, J=8.4 Hz), 6.06 (d, 1H, J<sub>AB</sub>=17.9 Hz), 5.76 (d, 1H, J<sub>AB</sub>=17.9 Hz), 3.29 (m, 1H), 3.08 (s, 3H), 2.80 (m, 1H), 2.69 (m, 1H), 2.55 (m, 1H), 2.18 (m, 2H), 1.93 (dd, 1H, J<sub>1</sub>=14.4 Hz, J<sub>2</sub>=9.7 Hz).

#### EXAMPLE 17A

Alternative procedure for (+/-)-[5-bromo-4-(4-chlorobenzyl)-7-fluoro-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrocyclopenta[b]indol-3-yl]acetic acid (Example 17, Step 4)

Step 1: (+/-)-7-fluoro-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrocyclopenta[b]indol-3-yl)acetic acid dicyclohexylamine (DCHA) salt

A 0.526 M solution of 2-bromo-4-fluoroaniline in xylene along with ethyl (2-oxocyclopentyl) acetate (1.5 eq) and sulfuric acid (0.02 eq) was heated to reflux for 20 hours. Water was azeotropically removed with a Dean-Stark apparatus. The reaction was followed by NMR and after 20 hours, an 80-85% conversion to the desired imine intermediate was generally observed. The reaction mixture was washed with 1M sodium bicarbonate (0.2 volumes) for 15 minutes and the organic fraction was evaporated. The remaining syrup was distilled under vacuum (0.5 mm Hg). Residual xylenes distilled at 30°C, then excess ketone and unreacted aniline were recovered in the 50-110°C range; the imine was recovered in the 110-180°C fraction as a light brown clear liquid with 83% purity.

The imine intermediate was then added to a degassed mixture of potassium acetate (3 eq), tetra-n-butylammonium chloride monohydrate (1 eq), palladium acetate (0.03 eq) and N,N-dimethylacetamide (final concentration of imine = 0.365 M). The reaction mixture was heated to 115°C for 5 hours and allowed to cool to room temperature. 3N KOH (3 eq) was then added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour. The reaction mixture was diluted with water (1.0 volume), washed with toluene (3 x 0.75 volume). The aqueous phase was acidified to pH 1 with 3N HCl and extracted with tertbutyl methyl ether (2 x 0.75 volume). The combined organic fractions were washed with water (0.75 volume). To the clear light brown solution was added dicyclohexylamine (1 eq) and the solution was stirred at room temperature for 16 hours. The salt was filtered, washed with ethyl acetate, tertbutyl methyl ether and allowed to dry to give the title compound. Assay: 94 A%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) : δ 9.24 (s, 1H), 7.16-7.08 (m, 2H), 6.82 (t, 1H), 6.2 (br, 2H), 3.6-3.5 (m, 1H), 3.04-2.97 (m, 2H), 2.88-2.70 (m, 3H), 2.66 (dd, 1H), 2.45-2.37 (m, 1H), 2.13-2.05 (m, 2.05), 1.83 (d, 4H), 1.67 (d, 2H), 1.55-1.43 (m, 4H), 1.33-1.11 (m, 6H).

Step 2: (+/-)-(5-bromo-7-fluoro-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrocyclopenta[b]indol-3-yl)acetic acid

A slurry of the DCHA salt from Step 1 above in dichloromethane (0.241 M solution) was cooled to -20 to -15 °C. Pyridine (2 eq.) was added in one shot and to the slurry was added dropwise bromine (2.5 eq.) over 30 to 45 minutes maintaining the temperature between -20 °C and -15 °C. (At about 1/3 addition of bromine, the reaction mixture was thick and an efficient stirring was needed.

5 Eventually, at about 1/2 addition of bromine, the mixture became "loose" again.) After completion of the addition, the reaction mixture was aged for one additional hour at -15 °C. Acetic acid (3.04 eq.) was then added over 5 minutes and zinc dust (3.04 eq.) was added portion wise. (A portion of zinc was added at -15 °C and the mixture was aged for about 5 minutes to ensure that the exotherm was going (about -15 °C to -10 °C)). This operation was repeated with about 5 shots of zinc over about 30 min. When no more  
10 exotherm was observed, the remaining zinc was added faster. The whole operation took around 30 to 45 minutes.

After completion of the addition, the batch was warmed to room temperature, aged 1 hour and concentrated. The reaction mixture was switched to methyl t-butyl ether (MTBE, 0.8 volume) and a 10% aqueous acetic acid solution (0.8 volume) was added. The mixture (crystallization of salts, e.g.  
15 pyridium) was aged at room temperature for 1 hour and filtered through solka-floc. The pad of solka-floc was rinsed with MTBE (ca. 0.2 volume) and the filtrate (biphasic, MTBE/aqueous) was transferred into an extractor. The organic phase was washed with water (0.8 volume). The MTBE extract was concentrated and switched to isopropyl alcohol (IPA, 0.25 volume) to crystallize the compound. Water (0.25 volumes) was added and the batch was aged for 1 hour. Additional water (0.33 volumes) was added  
20 over 1 hour. After completion of the water addition, the batch was aged for one additional hour, filtered, and rinse with 30/70 IPA/Water (0.15 volumes). Crystallized bromoacid was dried in the oven at +45 °C.

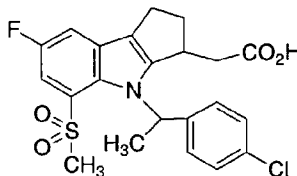
Step 3: (+/-)- [5-bromo-4-(4-chlorobenzyl)-7-fluoro-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrocyclopenta[b]indol-3-yl]-acetic acid

25 The bromoacid of Step 2 was dissolved in dimethylacetamide (0.416 M solution) and cesium carbonate (2.5 eq.) was added in one portion. To the slurry was added in one portion 4-chlorobenzyl chloride (2.5 eq.) and the batch was heated to 50 °C for 20 h. The batch was cooled to r.t. and sodium hydroxide 5N (4.00 eq.) was added over 5 minutes (temperature rose to +40 °C). The reaction was aged at 50 °C for ca. 3 hours, cooled to room temperature and transferred into an L  
30 extractor. The solution was diluted with isopropylacetate (IPAc, 2 volumes) and cooled to +15 °C. The solution was acidified with 5N HCl to pH~2. Layers were separated and the organic layer was washed with water (2x2 volumes). IPAc solution was concentrated and switched to IPA (0.8 volumes) to crystallize the product. Water (8 L) was added over 2 hours and the batch was filtered to give the title compound. The batch can be dried in the oven at +40 °C for 24 hours.

35

**EXAMPLE 18**

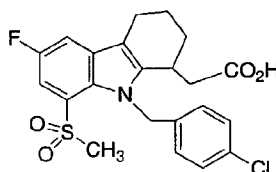
(+/-)-[4-[1-(4-Chlorophenyl)ethyl]-7-fluoro-5-methanesulfonyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrocyclopenta[b]indol-3-yl]acetic acid(Compound X)



5                   The title compound was synthesized in accordance with the description provided in PCT WO03/062200 published on July 30, 2003.

**EXAMPLE 19**

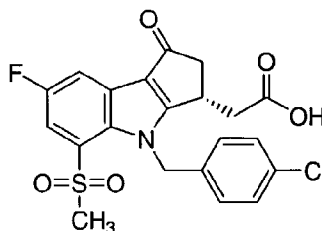
10                  (+/-)-[9-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-6-fluoro-methanesulfonyl-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-yl]acetic acid (Compound Y)



                  The title compound was synthesized in accordance with the description provided in PCT WO03/062200 published on July 30, 2003.

15                   **EXAMPLE 20**

[4-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-7-fluoro-5-methanesulfonyl-1-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrocyclopenta[b]indol-3-yl]acetic acid (Compound Z)

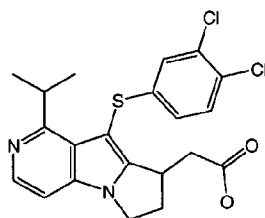


20                   The title compound was synthesized in accordance with the description provided in PCT WO03/062200 published on July 30, 2003.

**EXAMPLE 21**

{9-[(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)thio]-1-isopropyl-7,8-dihydro-6H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-yl}acetic acid (Enantiomer A and Enantiomer B) (Compound AA)





### Step 1 2-Chloronicotinaldehyde

5 To a solution of diisopropyl amine (110 mL, 780 mmol) in THF (500 mL) was added a 2.5 M hexanes solution of *n*-BuLi (300 mL, 750 mmol) at  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$ . After 5 min, the reaction mixture was cooled to  $-95^{\circ}\text{C}$  then DMPU (15 mL) and 2-chloropyridine (50 mL, 532 mmol) were successively added. The resulting mixture was then warmed and stirred at  $-78^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 4h. After this time, the yellow suspension was cooled again to  $-95^{\circ}\text{C}$  before DMF (70 mL) was added. The final reaction mixture was

10 warmed to  $-78^{\circ}\text{C}$  and stirred at that temperature for 1.5h. The reaction mixture was poured into cold aqueous HCl (3N, 800 mL) and stirred for 5 min. Aqueous concentrated  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$  was added to adjust pH to 7.5. The aqueous layer was extracted three times with EtOAc. The combined organic layer was washed with aqueous  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  and brine, dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered and concentrated. The crude material was further purified by a pad of silica gel by eluting with a gradient from 100% hexanes to

15 100% EtOAc and the product was crystallized in cold hexanes to provide the title compound as a pale yellow solid.

### Step 2 Methyl (2Z)-2-azido-3-(2-chloropyridin-3-yl)prop-2-enoate

A solution of 2-chloronicotinaldehyde (20.0 g, 139.9 mmol) and methyl azidoacetate (32.2 mL, 349.7 mmol) in MeOH (168 mL) was added to a solution of 25% NaOMe in MeOH (80 mL, 349 mmol) at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The internal temperature was monitored and maintained at  $\sim -20^{\circ}\text{C}$  during the 30 min. addition. The resulting mixture was then stirred in an ice bath for several hours, followed by overnight in an ice bath in the cold room. The suspension was then poured onto a mixture of ice and  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$ , and the slurry was filtered after 10 min. of stirring. The product was washed with cold  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and was then dried under

25 vacuum. The crude material was dissolved in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and  $\text{MgSO}_4$  was added. The suspension was filtered through a pad of silica gel, washed with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and a beige precipitate of the title product was obtained.

### Step 3 Methyl 4-chloro-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carboxylate

30 A solution of methyl (2Z)-2-azido-3-[2-chloropyridin-3-yl]prop-2-enoate (21 g, 88 mmol) in mesitylene (880 mL) was heated at reflux for a period of 1 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature then to  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and the precipitate was filtered and washed with cold hexane. The material was stirred overnight in 1:20 EtOAc/hexane to give, after filtration, the title product as a pale yellow solid.

Step 4 Methyl 1-chloro-8-oxo-7,8-dihydro-6H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizine-7-carboxylate

To a suspension of methyl 4-chloro-1H-pyrrolo[3,2-c]pyridine-2-carboxylate (12.5 g, 59 mmol) in THF (116 mL) – toluene (460 mL) were added a 1.0 M THF solution of potassium tert-butoxide (64 mL, 64 mmol) and methyl acrylate (55 mL, 611 mmol). The resulting mixture was heated at 100°C for 18h. After this time, the suspension was cooled to room temperature and it was poured into a mixture of saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (400 mL) and hexanes (400 mL). The solids were decanted, filtered and washed with H<sub>2</sub>O and hexanes to provide the title compound.

Step 5 1-Chloro-6,7-dihydro-8H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-one

To the compound of the previous step were added isopropanol (8.0 mL) and concentrated HCl (2.0 mL) with heating at 100°C for 1h. The reaction mixture was partitioned between EtOAc and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. The organic phase was separated, evaporated to provide the title compound.

Step 6 1-Isopropenyl-6,7-dihydro-8H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-one

To a mixture of 1-chloro-6,7-dihydro-8H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-one (5.0 g, 24.3 mmol), tris (dibenzylidene acetone)dipalladium (0) (1.0 g, 1.09 mmol) and triphenylarsine (2.70 g, 8.82 mmol) in DMF (100 mL) was added tributylisopropenyl stannane (9.60 g, 29.00 mmol). The resulting mixture was degassed and heated at 78°C for a period of 18 h. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and celite were added to the resulting mixture which was then filtered over celite. The title compound was purified by flash chromatography (50% to 100% EtOAc in Hexane).

Step 7 Ethyl (2E)-(1-isopropenyl-6,7-dihydro-8H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-ylidene)ethanoate

To a solution of 1-isopropenyl-6,7-dihydro-8H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-one (0.60 g, 2.8 mmol) and triethyl phosphonoacetate (1.00 g, 4.46 mmol) in THF (24 mL) at -78°C was added 80% NaH (0.12 g, 4.00 mmol), the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 0°C, then to room temperature. The reaction mixture was poured onto saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl and EtOAc. The organic phase was separated, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated. The title compound was purified by flash chromatography (40% EtOAc in Hexane).

Step 8 Ethyl (1-isopropyl-7,8-dihydro-6H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-yl)acetate

To a solution of ethyl (2E)-(1-isopropenyl-6,7-dihydro-8H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-ylidene)ethanoate (0.40 g, 1.4 mmol) in MeOH (20 mL) was added Pd(OH)<sub>2</sub> (0.20 g). The mixture was stirred under 1 atm of H<sub>2</sub> for 3h. The mixture was filtered over celite and evaporated to provide the title compound.

Step 9 Ethyl {9-[(3,4-dichlorophenyl)thio]-1-isopropyl-7,8-dihydro-6H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-yl}acetate

To a solution of bis (3,4-dichlorophenyl)disulfide (0.24 g, 0.67 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5.6 mL) was added SO<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.036 mL). The resulting yellow mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. This solution was added to a solution of ethyl (1-isopropyl-7,8-dihydro-6H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-yl) acetate (0.15 g, 0.52 mmol) in DMF (5.6 mL) at 0°C. After 1.5 h at 0°C, the reaction mixture was poured over saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and EtOAc. The organic phase was separated, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated. The title compound was purified by flash chromatography (30% to 40% EtOAc in Hexane).

Step 10 {9-[(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)thio]-1-isopropyl-7,8-dihydro-6H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-yl}acetic acid

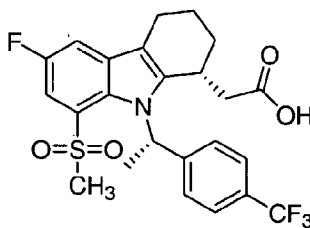
To a solution of ethyl {9-[(3,4-dichlorophenyl)thio]-1-isopropyl-7,8-dihydro-6H-pyrido[3,4-b]pyrrolizin-8-yl}acetate (0.23 g, 0.50 mmol) in THF (5 mL) and MeOH (2.5 mL) was added 1.0 M NaOH (1.5 mL, 1.5 mmol). After stirring 18h at RT, HOAc (0.25 mL) was added and the solvent was evaporated. The residue was taken up in EtOAc/H<sub>2</sub>O, and the organic layer was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O and brine. After drying (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), the solution was filtered and evaporated. The residue was stirred with 1:1 EtOAc:hex to give, after filtration, the title compound as a white solid.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (MeOH-d<sub>4</sub>) δ 1.14–1.26 (m, 6H), 2.47–2.56 (m, 1H), 2.56–2.64 (m, 1H), 2.94–3.05 (m, 2H), 3.81–3.89 (m, 1H), 4.22–4.30 (m, 1H), 4.33–4.44 (m, 2H), 6.93–6.99 (m, 1H), 7.14–7.19 (m, 1H), 7.33–7.39 (m, 1H), 7.54–7.59 (m, 1H), 8.16–8.21 (m, 1H).

The product of Step 10 was converted to its methyl ester using CH<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>, and the ester was subjected to HPLC separation on chiral stationary phase (chiralcel OD column 2x25cm), eluting with 12% 2-propanol in hexane at a flow rate of 6 mL/min. Enantiomer A (less polar) has a retention time of 31.9 min and Enantiomer B (more polar) has a retention time of 35.5 min. Both A and B were hydrolyzed as in Ex. 17 Step 10 to give enantiomers A and B of the title compound.

### EXAMPLE 22

((1R)-6-Fluoro-8-(methylsulfonyl)-9-[(1S)-1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethyl]-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-yl)acetic acid (Compound AJ)



Step 1: 2-(2-Bromo-4-fluorophenyl)hydrazinium chloride

To a suspension of 2-bromo-4-fluoroaniline in concentrated HCl (1.5M) at -10°C was slowly added a 10.0M aqueous solution of NaNO<sub>2</sub> (1.1 eq). The mixture was stirred at 0°C for 2.5 hrs. A cold (-30°C) solution of SnCl<sub>2</sub> (3.8M) in concentrated HCl was then slowly added while maintaining the internal temperature below 10°C. The resulting mixture was stirred mechanically for 20 min at 10°C, then at room temperature for 1 hr. The thick slurry was filtered and the solid was air dried overnight. The solid was resuspended in cold HCl and filtered again. The dried material was suspended in Et<sub>2</sub>O, stirred for 10 min, filtered and air dried overnight to give the title compound as a beige solid.

Step 2: (+/-)-Ethyl (8-bromo-6-fluoro-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-yl)acetate

To a suspension of the compound of Step 1 (1 eq) in AcOH (0.5M) was added ethyl (2-oxocyclohexyl)acetate (1 eq). The mixture was stirred at reflux for 16 hrs, cooled and AcOH was removed by evaporation under reduced pressure. The residue was diluted with EtOAc and washed with water and saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub>. The organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The residue was then purified on a pad of silica gel, eluting with toluene. The filtrate was concentrated and stirred in hexanes to give, after filtration, the title compound as a white solid. MS (+APCI) m/z 354.2 (M+H)<sup>+</sup>.

Step 3: (+/-)-Ethyl [6-fluoro-8-(methylsulfonyl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-yl]-acetate

To a solution of the compound of Step 2 (1 eq) in anhydrous DMSO (0.28M) were added sodium methanesulphinate (3 eq) and copper iodide (3 eq). N<sub>2</sub> was bubbled into the mixture for 5 min and the reaction was then stirred at 100°C under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. After 12 hrs, more sodium methanesulphinate (2 eq) and copper iodide (2 eq) were added. The mixture was stirred for a further 12hrs at 100°C, cooled, diluted with EtOAc and 1N HCl was added to acidify the mixture. The suspension was stirred for 30 min and filtered through celite. The filtrate was washed with water, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The residue was filtered through a pad of silica gel, eluting first with toluene to remove the non-polar impurities and then with a 2:1 mixture of hexanes/EtOAc to elute the desired product. The filtrate from the elution with the mixture of hexanes/EtOAc was concentrated to give the title compound as a pale yellow solid. MS (-APCI) m/z 352.1 (M-H)<sup>-</sup>.

Step 4: Ethyl [(1R)-6-fluoro-8-(methylsulfonyl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-yl]acetate

The racemic mixture from step 3 was resolved by preparative HPLC on a chiralpak AD preparative column eluted with a mixture of 15% iPrOH in hexane. The more polar enantiomer (longer retention time) was identified as the title compound based on the activity of the final product.

Step 5: Ethyl [(1R)-9-[(1S)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)ethyl]-6-fluoro-8-(methylsulfonyl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-yl]acetate

To a solution of the compound of Step 4 (1 eq), triphenylphosphine (1.5 eq) and (1R)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)ethanol (1.5 eq, prepared following the general procedure described in Reference Example 1) in THF (0.175M) was added a solution of di-tert-butyl azodicarboxylate (2.1 M in THF, 1.5 eq) over a 10 min period. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2hr and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica gel flash chromatography, eluting with 7% EtOAc in toluene to give the desired product (~90% pure) which was used as such for the next reaction.

Step 6: [(1R)-9-[(1S)-1-(4-Chlorophenyl)ethyl]-6-fluoro-8-(methylsulfonyl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-yl]acetic acid and [(1S)-9-[(1S)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)ethyl]-6-fluoro-8-(methylsulfonyl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-yl]acetic acid

To a solution of the compound of Step 5 in a 2:1 mixture of THF and methanol (0.1M) was added 1N aqueous LiOH (3 eq). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hr, AcOH was added and the solvent was removed by evaporation. The residue was taken up in EtOAc/H<sub>2</sub>O and the organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated. The residue was swished in 30% EtOAc in hexane, and the product was suspended in diethyl ether and sonicated for 45 min, filtered, and dried under high vacuum at 50°C for 24 hr to give the title compound as a white solid. MS (-APCI) m/z 462.1 (M-H)

Alternatively (+/-) ethyl [6-fluoro-8-(methylsulfonyl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-yl]acetate was used for the alkylation reaction in step 5 to give a mixture of 2 diastereomers: ethyl [(1R)-9-[(1S)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)ethyl]-6-fluoro-8-(methylsulfonyl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-yl]acetate and ethyl [(1S)-9-[(1S)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)ethyl]-6-fluoro-8-(methylsulfonyl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-yl]acetate. The diastereomeric mixture was resolved by selective hydrolysis using the following procedure to give the desired [(1R)-9-[(1S)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)ethyl]-6-fluoro-8-(methylsulfonyl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-yl]acetic acid.

#### Resolution:

The diastereomeric mixture of ethyl [(1R)-9-[(1S)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)ethyl]-6-fluoro-8-(methylsulfonyl)-2, 3, 4, 9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-yl]acetate and ethyl [(1S)-9-[(1S)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)ethyl]-6-fluoro-8-(methylsulfonyl)-2, 3, 4, 9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-yl]acetate (1 eq) was dissolved in a 3.5/1 mixture of THF /MeOH (0.25M) and cooled at 0°C. Aqueous LiOH 1N (1 eq) was slowly added and the mixture was stirred at 0°C for 12h or until almost complete hydrolysis of ethyl [(1R)-9-[(1S)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)ethyl]-6-fluoro-8-(methylsulfonyl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-yl]acetate, the other diastereomer was only slightly hydrolyzed under these conditions. AcOH was added and the solvent was removed by evaporation. The residue was taken up in EtOAc/H<sub>2</sub>O and the organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated. Ethyl [(1S)-9-[(1S)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)ethyl]-6-fluoro-8-(methylsulfonyl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-yl]acetate and [(1R)-9-[(1S)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)ethyl]-6-fluoro-8-(methylsulfonyl)-2, 3, 4, 9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-

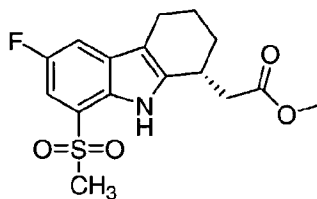
yl]acetic acid were separated by flash chromatography eluting with 40% EtOAc in hexanes containing 1% AcOH to give the desired [(1R)-9-[(1S)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)ethyl]-6-fluoro-8-(methylsulfonyl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-yl]acetic acid with de>90% which was swished in 30% EtOAc in hexane to give the desired compound as a white solid with de>95%.

5

Step 7: Methyl [(1R)-6-fluoro-8-(methylsulfonyl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-yl]acetate

To a solution of [(1R)-9-[(1S)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)ethyl]-6-fluoro-8-(methylsulfonyl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-yl]acetic acid ( $[\alpha]_D = -226^\circ$  in MeOH) in MeOH (0.1M) was added 10% palladium on carbon (10% wt/wt). A stream of N<sub>2</sub> was bubbled through the mixture for 5 min. The reaction was stirred at rt under H<sub>2</sub> atmosphere(balloon) for 24 hrs and filtered through a celite pad eluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The solvents were removed by evaporation under reduced pressure and the residue was swished in MeOH to give the compound methyl [(1R)-6-fluoro-8-(methylsulfonyl)-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-yl]acetate.

10



Step 8: (((1R)-6-Fluoro-8-(methylsulfonyl)-9-[(1S)-1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethyl]-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-yl)acetic acid (Compound AJ)

To a solution of the compound of step 7 (1 eq), triphenylphosphine (1.5 eq) and (1R)-1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethanol (1.5 eq) in THF (0.2M) was added a solution of di-tert-butyl azodicarboxylate (1M in THF, 1.5 eq) over a 20 min period. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2hr and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica gel flash chromatography eluted with 10% EtOAc in toluene to give methyl ((1R)-6-fluoro-8-(methylsulfonyl)-9-[(1S)-1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]ethyl]-2,3,4,9-tetrahydro-1H-carbazol-1-yl)acetate (~90% pure) which was used as such for the next reaction.

20

To a solution of the above ester (1 eq) in a 3.5/1 mixture of THF /MeOH (0.25M) at 0°C was slowly added aqueous LiOH 1N (1 eq) and the mixture was stirred at 0°C for 16h or until almost complete hydrolysis of the ester; under these conditions, the other minor diastereomer has a much slower rate of hydrolysis. AcOH was added and the solvent was removed in vacuo. The residue was taken up in EtOAc/H<sub>2</sub>O and the organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated. To remove the unreacted methyl ester, the residue was filtered through a pad of silica gel eluting first with 10% EtOAc/toluene and then with 60% EtOAc/toluene containing 1% of AcOH. The residue was swished in 30% EtOAc/hexane and dried under high vacuum at 50°C for 16 hr to give the title compound as a white solid with de and ee >95% (checked by chiral HPLC).

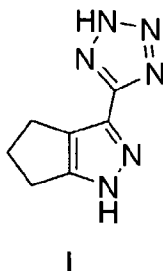
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MS (-APCI) m/z 496.0 (M-H)<sup>+</sup>.  $[\alpha]_D = -181^\circ$  in MeOH

## EXAMPLE 23

## 3-(2H-TETRAZOL-5-YL)-1, 4, 5, 6-TETRAHYDROCYCLOPENTAPYRAZOLE

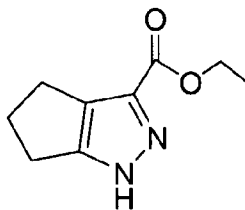
5 Method A

1, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydro-cyclopentapyrazole-3-carbonitrile (0.022 g, 0.165 mmol) and sodium azide (0.086 g, 1.30 mmol) were taken up in DMF (3 cm) and heated under microwave irradiation to 175°C for 20 minutes. The solution was cooled to room temperature, filtered and the filtered solid washed with ethyl acetate. The combined solutions were added to saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate (20 cm) and washed with ethyl acetate. The aqueous layer was acidified to pH 1 with the addition of 1M aqueous hydrochloric acid and extracted into ethyl acetate. The ethyl acetate washes were combined and solvent removed under reduced pressure. The resulting solid was purified by preparative HPLC to give 3-(2H-tetrazol-5-yl)-1, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydro-cyclopentapyrazole (I) as a white solid.

15  $^1\text{H NMR } \delta$  ( $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ): 2.88 (t-like, 2H,  $J=7.0$ ), 2.82 (t-like, 2H,  $J=7.3$ ), 2.64 (quintet-like, 2H,  $J=7.1$ );  $m/z$  ( $\text{ES}^+$ ): 177  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$

The intermediate 1, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole-3-carbonitrile is prepared using the following procedure.

20

A 1, 4, 5, 6-Tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester

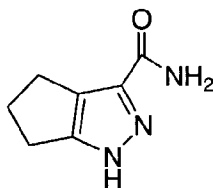
Cyclopentanone (10.0 g, 118.9 mmol) was taken up in absolute ethanol (30 ml) and sodium ethoxide (53 ml, 21% in ethanol, 143 mmol) was added. The resulting solution was stirred under argon for 10 minutes, and diethyl oxalate (19.1 g, 131 mmol) was added. Further ethanol (10 ml) was added and the solution heated at 75°C for 3 hours, then cooled to room temperature. Hydrazine

25

hydrochloride (8.15 g, 119 mmol), taken up in water (20 ml) was added and the solution heated to 75°C overnight. Solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was taken up in ethyl acetate (200 ml) and washed with water (200 ml), dried (sodium sulfate) and filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give 1, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester as an off white solid

$\delta$ H (CD<sub>3</sub>OD): 4.34 (q, 2H, J=7.1, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.78 (t like, 2H, J=7.0), 2.72 (br s, 2H), 2.49 (br s, 2H), 1.36 (t, 3H, J=7.1, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>): 181 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

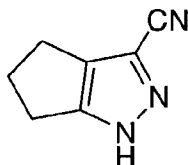
B) 1, 4, 5, 6-Tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole-3-carboxylic acid amide



1, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydro-cyclopentapyrazole-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (0.808g, 4.48 mmol) was taken up in methanolic ammonia (ca 7 M, 12 ml) and stirred overnight at 95°C. The resulting solution was chilled and the precipitated 1, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole-3-carboxylic acid amide collected by vacuum filtration as a white crystalline solid.

$\delta$ H (CD<sub>3</sub>OD): 2.79 (t like, 2H, J=6.9), 2.7 (t like, 2H, J=7.3), 2.55 (br s, 2H); m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>): 152 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.

C) 1, 4, 5, 6-Tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole-3-carbonitrile



1, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole-3-carboxylic acid amide (0.210 g, 1.39 mmol) was added to anhydrous acetonitrile (12 ml), heated to 80°C and sodium chloride (2.0 g, 34 mmol) was added. After 15 minutes phosphorus oxychloride (0.128 g, 0.83 mmol) was added and the solution heated to 80°C overnight, cooled and filtered. The collected solids were washed with acetonitrile. Solvent was removed from the combined solutions under reduced pressure and the resulting solid purified by preparative HPLC to give 1, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole-3-carbonitrile as a deep purple colored solid.

$\delta$ H (CD<sub>3</sub>OD): 2.79 (t like, 2H, J=7.3), 2.73 (t like, 2H, J=7.1), 2.65-2.55 (m, 2H); m/z (ES<sup>+</sup>): 134 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>.



Method B

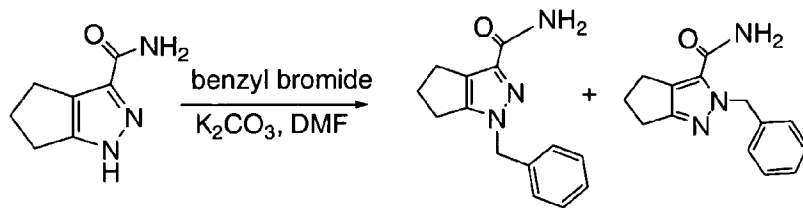
Air was bubbled through a stirring solution of 1-benzyl-3-(2H-tetrazol-5-yl)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole (1.92 g, 7.21 mmol) and KO t-Bu (65 mL of a 1 M solution in THF in DMSO) (50 mL) for 2 hrs. The reaction was acidified to pH = 2 by the addition of HCl (3M aq). The mixture was filtered and the filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*. The material was purified by reverse-phase HPLC: Phenomenex Luna C18 column (10 microns, 250x50mm), 5% v/v CH<sub>3</sub>CN (containing 1% v/v TFA) in H<sub>2</sub>O v/v TFA gradient to 50% H<sub>2</sub>O 60 mL/min  $\lambda$  = 214nm.

The product was further purified by loading the material on a Varian bondElut 60 mL, 10x g SCX cartridge. MeOH (150 mL) was passed through the column to remove unbound impurities. The product was then eluted by passing a solution of 2N NH<sub>3</sub> in MeOH (150 mL) through the column. Concentration of the eluent yielded the ammonium salt of 3-(2H-tetrazol-5-yl)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole as a white solid.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (ammonium salt, 400MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD):  $\delta$ 2.88 (2H, t, J = 6.8 Hz) 2.74 (2H, t, J = 6.8 Hz) 2.52 (2H, quint, J = 6.8 Hz). HPLC/MS: Discovery C 18 column (5 micron, 50 x 2.1 mm), 5% v/v CH<sub>3</sub>CN. (containing 1% v/v TFA) in H<sub>2</sub>O (containing 1% v/v TFA) gradient to 99%v/v CH<sub>3</sub>CN in H<sub>2</sub>O, 0.75 mL/min, tr = 1.22 min, ESI<sup>+</sup> = 177.3 (M+H). Anal Calc'd for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>8</sub>N<sub>6</sub> (neutral cpd); C, 47.72; H, 4.58. Found C, 47.27; H, 4.16. Anal Calc'd for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>7</sub> (ammonium salt): C, 43.51; H, 5.74, Found: C, 42.94; H, 5.30.

The intermediate 1-benzyl-3-(2H-tetrazol-5-yl)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole was prepared using the following procedure.

1-Benzyl-1,4,5,6 tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole-3-carboxylic acid amide and 2-Benzyl-2,4,5,6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole-3-carboxylic acid amide



To a stirring solution of 1, 4, 5, 6 tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole-3-carboxylic acid amide (2.57 g, 17.0 mmol) in DMF (34 mL) at 25°C was added K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (5.87g, 42.5 mmol) followed by benzyl bromide (4.36g, 25.5 mmol). The reaction was stirred at ambient temperature for 16 h at which time the mixture was diluted with EtOAc (75 mL) and filtered. The filtrate was washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (100 mL) and the aqueous phase was back-extracted with EtOAc (75 mL) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (75 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification by silica gel chromatography (50% EtOAc in hexanes gradient to 95% EtOAc in hexanes) gave 2-benzyl-2, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole-3-carboxylic acid as a white solid followed by 1-benzyl-1, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole-3-carboxylic acid amide isolated as a white solid.

1-Benzyl-1, 4, 5, 6 tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole-3-carboxylic acid amide

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.37-7.30 (3H, m), 7.19 (2H, m), 6.67 (1H, bs), 5.34 (1H, bs), 5.19 (2H, s), 2.82 (2H, m), 2.51 (4H, m). <sup>13</sup>C APT NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ up: 164.8, 155.2, 139.0, 136.0, 129.5, 55.3, 31.2, 24.1; down: 129.0, 128.3, 127.8.

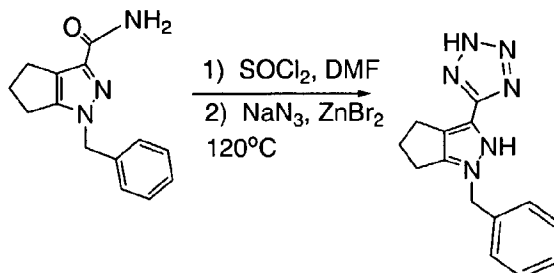
HPLC/MS: Alltech Prevail C18 column (5 microns, 50x4.6 mm), 5% v/v CH<sub>3</sub>CN (containing 1% v/v TFA) in H<sub>2</sub>O (containing 1% v/v TFA) gradient to 99% v/v CH<sub>3</sub>CN in H<sub>2</sub>O, 3.5 mL/min, t<sub>r</sub> = 2.13 min, ESI<sup>+</sup> = 242.2 (M + H).

2-Benzyl-2, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole-3-carboxylic acid amide

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz), CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ 7.34-7.21 (5H, m), 5.76 (2H, s), 5.70-5.38 (2H, bs), 2.78 (4H, m), 2.49 (2H, m). <sup>13</sup>C APT NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ up: 161.9, 160.1, 138.3, 128.3, 127.1, 55.1, 29.9, 24.8, 24.7; down: 128.6, 128.0, 127.6.

HPLC/MS: Alltech Prevail C18 column (5 micron, 50x4.6mm), 5%v/v CH<sub>3</sub>CN (containing 1% v/v TFA) in H<sub>2</sub>O (containing 1% v/v TFA) gradient to 99% v/v CH<sub>3</sub>CN in H<sub>2</sub>O, 3.5 mL/min, t<sub>r</sub> = 1.98 min, ESI<sup>+</sup> = 242.1 (M+H).

B) 1-Benzyl-3-(2H-tetrazol-5-yl)-1, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole



To a solution of 1-benzyl-1, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole-3-carboxylic acid amide (3.02 g, 12.53 mmol) in DMF (25 mL) at rt was added thionyl chloride (1.94 g, 16.3 mmol). The reaction was stirred for 18 h at which time NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (sat. aq., 6mL) was added to quench excess thionyl

chloride. The mixture was diluted with EtOAc (150 mL) and washed sequentially with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (sat'd aq. 100mL) and brine (100 mL). The aqueous washes were back-extracted with EtOAc (2x 100 mL) and the combined organics were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated in vacuo to yield a crude yellow oil. Relevant <sup>1</sup>HMR for nitrile intermediate (obtained from a separate reaction sequence): <sup>1</sup>H

5 NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.40-7.34 (3H, m), 7.23 (2H, m), 5.22 (2H, s), 2.70 (2H, m), 2.52 (4H, m).

The concentrate was dissolved in DMF (20 mL) and placed in a heavy walled sealed reaction vessel to which ZnBr<sub>2</sub> (4.70 g, 18.0 mmol) and NaN<sub>3</sub> (2.73g, 42.0 mmol) were added sequentially. The vessel was sealed and heated to 120°C for 18 h. The mixture was cooled to rt and HCl (3M aq., 2 mL) was added and stirring was continued for 5 min. The mixture was diluted with EtOAc

10 (150 mL) and washed with HCl (1M, aq., 100mL). The organics were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated. Purification by silica gel chromatography (50:50:0.2, hexanes: EtOAc: AcOH gradient to 100: 0.2, EtOAc: AcOH) gave 1-benzyl-3-(2H-tetrazol-5-yl)-1, 4, 5, 6- tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole as a white solid (the white solid contained 15% w/w recovered 1-benzyl-1, 4, 5, 6- tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole-3-carboxylic acid amide as determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR integration).

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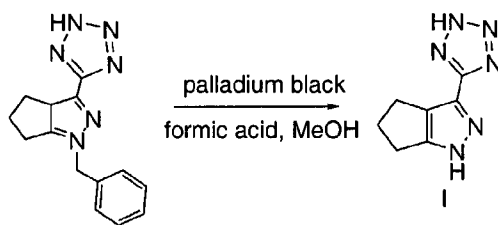
1-Benzyl-3-(2H-tetrazol-5-yl)-1, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole:

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ 7.36-7.25 (5H, m), 5.30 (2H s), 2.84 (2H, t, J = 6.4 Hz), 2.62-2.56 (4H, m). <sup>13</sup>C APT NMR (100MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ up 153.8, 151.9, 137.6, 131.5, 128.9, 55.8, 31.9, 24.8; 24.6; down.: 129.9, 129.1, 129.0. HPLC/MS: Discovery C18 column (5 micron, 50x2.1 mm), 5% v/v CH<sub>3</sub>CN (containing 1% v/v TFA) in H<sub>2</sub>O (containing 1% v/v TFA) gradient to 99% v/v

20 CH<sub>3</sub>CN in H<sub>2</sub>O, 0.75 mL/min, t<sub>r</sub> = 2.18 min, ESI<sup>+</sup> = 267.1 (M+H).

Method C

3-(2H-tetrazol-5-yl)-1, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole (I)



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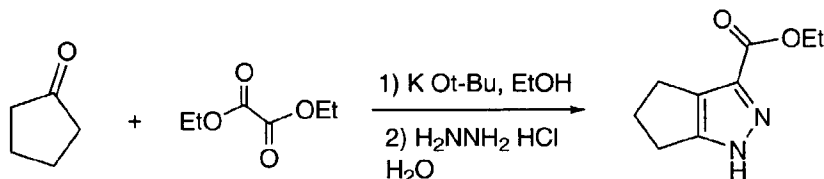
To a solution of 1 benzyl-3-(2H-tetrazol-5-yl)-1, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole (59.4g, 223 mmol) in 10% v/v formic acid/MeOH (900mL) was added palladium black (39.8g, 374 mmol). The mixture was mechanically stirred under a N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere for 24 hrs. The reaction was filtered and concentrated. The product was further purified and converted to the ammonium salt by loading material (as a solution in MeOH) onto a column containing Bondesil SCX SPE resin (750g).

30 The column was flushed with MeOH (20 L) to remove unbound impurities. The product was eluted

using 2N  $\text{NH}_3/\text{MeOH}$  (approx. 1.5 L). Upon concentration the ammonium salt of pure 3-(2H-tetrazol-5-yl)-1, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole was obtained as a white solid.

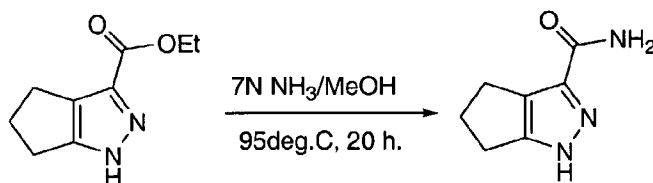
The intermediate 1-Benzyl-3-(2H-tetrazol-5-yl)-1, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole was prepared using the following procedure.

A. 1, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester



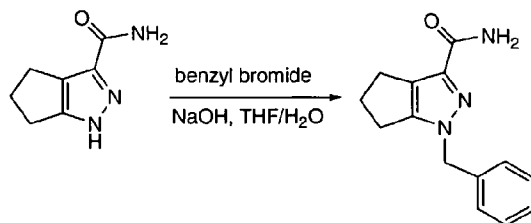
To a solution of cyclopentanone (42.0g, 0.5 mmol) and diethyl oxalate (73.1g, 0.5 mmol) in EtOH (2.5 L) at rt under  $\text{N}_2$  was added a solution of KOt-Bu in THF (500mL of a 1 M solution, 0.5 mol) over 0.5 hr via an addition funnel. The reaction was stirred for 3.5hrs at which time the flask was cooled to  $0^\circ\text{C}$ . Hydrazine hydrochloride (37.6g, 0.55mmol) in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (250 mL) was added via addition funnel over 0.5 hr. The reaction was warmed to rt and stirred for 16h. The volatiles were removed in vacuo and the resulting solid was washed with  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  (sat'd. aq., 500mL) and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (500mL). Further concentration in vacuo gave pure 1, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole-3-carboxylic acid ethyl ester as a yellow solid.

B. 1, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole-3-carboxylic acid amide



Ethyl ester (63.5g, 0.35mmol) was dissolved in a solution of 7N  $\text{NH}_3/\text{MeOH}$  (1.0 L). The solution was divided into four equal portions each of which was transferred to a 350mL heavy walled sealed reaction vessel. The vessel was heated to  $95^\circ\text{C}$  and stirred for 20 hrs. The reaction was cooled to rt at which time a solid precipitated. The solution was filtered and the solid was washed with NaOH (1N aq., 200mL) giving pure 1, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole-3-carboxylic acid amide as a white solid.

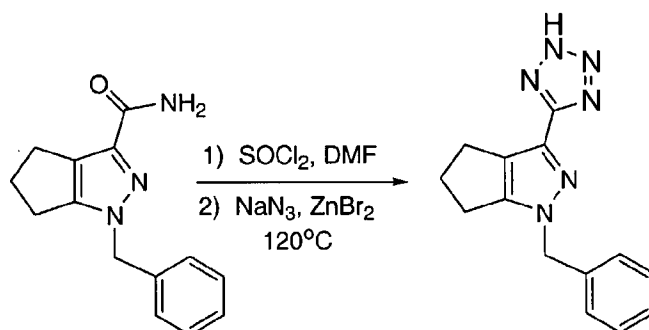
C. 1-Benzyl-1, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole-3-carboxylic acid amide



To a solution of 1, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole-3-carboxylic acid amide (41.5g, 275 mmol) in THF (460mL) at rt was added a solution of NaOH (5N aq., 110 mL, 0.54mol.). After stirring for 5 min, benzyl bromide (49.2 g, 0.29mol) was added and the reaction was stirred for 16 hrs.

- 5 The volatiles were removed in vacuo and the resulting solid was washed with water (3x250mL). Further concentration gave 1-benzyl-1, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole-3-carboxylic acid amide as a white solid, obtained as a mixture of regioisomers which was used without further purification.

D 1-Benzyl-3-(2H-tetrazol-5-yl)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole



10

- A flask equipped with a drying tube under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere was charged with anhydrous DMF (250 mL). The flask was cooled to 0°C and thionyl chloride (36.7g, 309 mmol) was added via syringe over a period of 5 min. After stirring for an additional 10 min, a solution of 1-benzyl-1, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole-3-carboxylic acid amide (67.7g, 281 mmol) in DMF (310mL) was added over 5 min using an addition funnel. The mixture was slowly warmed to rt and stirred for 16 hrs.
- 15 NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (sat. aq., 100 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred for 10 min. The volatiles were removed in vacuo and the residue was diluted with EtOAc (700mL) and NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (sat aq., 700 mL). The layers were separated and the aqueous phase was back extracted with EtOAc (400 mL). The combined organics were washed with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (sat. aq., 600 mL) and brine (600 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated to give the nitrile as a brown solid.
- 20

- To a solution of the nitrile in DMF (560 mL) was added ZnBr<sub>2</sub> (95.6 g, 425 mmol) followed by NaN<sub>3</sub> (55.2g, 849 mmol). The mixture was heated to 120°C and stirred for 14 hr. The reaction was cooled to rt and the DMF was removed in vacuo. HCl (2N aq., 800mL) was added and the mixture was stirred for 15 min. followed by filtration. The solid was added to a biphasic mixture of
- 25 EtOAc (500mL) and HCl (5N aq., 300mL) and stirred for 0.5 hr. The solution was filtered and the layers

separated. The remaining solid was again treated with EtOAc and HCl (5N aq.) as described above and this process (stir, filter, separate) was repeated until all solid material was dissolved. The combined organic filtrates were concentrated to give 1-benzyl-3-(2H-tetrazol-5-yl)-1, 4, 5, 6-tetrahydrocyclopentapyrazole as a light brown solid.

## Biology

The nicotinic acid receptor has been identified and characterized in WO02/084298A2 published on October 24, 2002, Soga, T. et al. Biochemical and Biophysical Research Comm. 303: 364-369 (2003), Tunaru, S. et al. Nature Medicine 9: 352-355 (2003), and Wise, A. et al. Journal of Biological Chemistry 278: 9869-9874 (2003).

The compound of formula I is a nicotinic acid receptor agonist or partial agonist, and is thus useful for treating or preventing atherosclerosis, dyslipidemias, diabetes and related diseases and conditions. The compound has been shown to have a reduced flushing effect relative to nicotinic acid in the mouse model described below. Further reduction of the flushing effect is achieved by administering a selective DP antagonist as described herein.

## Flushing via Laser Doppler Procedure –

To measure flushing, male C57B16 mice (approx. 25g) are anesthetized using 10mg/mkg Nembutal sodium. After ten minutes the animal is placed under the laser and the ear is folded back to expose the ventral side. The laser is positioned in the center of the ear and focused to an intensity of 8.4-9.0 V (which is generally approx. 4.5cm above the ear). Data acquisition is initiated with a 15 by 15 image format, auto interval, 60 images and a 20 sec time delay with a medium resolution. Test compounds are administered following the 10th image *via* injection into the peritoneal space. Images 1-10 are considered the animal's baseline and data is normalized to an average of the baseline mean intensities.

## DP Antagonists

The compounds used in the present invention with the compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, function as selective DP antagonists typically demonstrate an affinity ( $K_i$ ) for DP that is at least about 10 times higher (a numerically lower  $K_i$  value) than the affinity ( $K_i$ ) for CRTH2 receptors. Typical DP antagonists used in the present invention are at least about 10-fold selective for the DP receptor over the CRTH2 receptor. More particularly, the selective DP receptor antagonist is at least about 100 fold selective for the DP receptor relative to the CRTH2 receptor. Even more particularly, the DP selective antagonist compound is at least about 800-1000 fold selective for the DP receptor over the CRTH2 receptor, i.e., the affinity ( $K_i$ ) for the DP receptor is 800-1000 times higher than the affinity ( $K_i$ ) for the CRTH2 receptor.

As used herein when a compound "selectively modulates the DP receptor", the compound binds to and antagonizes the DP receptor at a concentration that is achievable at therapeutic doses, while not substantially modulating the CRTH2 receptor at such therapeutically achievable concentrations.

5 Generally the DP antagonists used herein have an affinity ( $K_i$ ) for the CRTH2 receptor of about 0.5 micromolar or higher. Compounds having a binding affinity for CRTH2 of about 0.5 micromolar or higher, and a selectivity for the DP receptor over CRTH2 of at least about 10 fold, are useful to inhibit the flushing effect seen when the compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof is administered without such selective DP antagonists.

#### 10 Determination of the Affinity and Selectivity of Compounds at Recombinant Human DP and CRTH2 Receptors

The receptor affinity and selectivity of compounds at DP and CRTH2 were determined using radioligand binding assays as described in Abramovitz M, et al. Biochem. Biophys. Acta 15 (2000)1483: 285-293, and Sawyer N, et al. Br. J. Pharmacol. (2002); 137: 1163-1172. Briefly, stable cell lines that individually express human DP and CRTH2 receptors were established using human embryonic kidney (HEK) 293EBNA (Epstein Barr virus Nuclear Antigen) cells (designated HEK293E cell lines). Membrane fractions prepared from these recombinant cell lines were employed in equilibrium competition radioligand binding assays to determine the affinity and selectivity of 20 compounds at the DP and CRTH2 receptors.

DP and CRTH2 cDNAs corresponding to full length coding sequences were subcloned into the appropriate sites of the mammalian expression vector pCEP4 (Invitrogen) and expressed in HEK293E cells. Membranes were prepared by differential centrifugation (1000 x g for 10 min, then 160,000 x g for 30 min, all at 4°C) following lysis of the cells by nitrogen cavitation at 800 psi for 30 25 min on ice in the presence of protease inhibitors (2 mM AEBSF, 10  $\mu$ M E-64, 100  $\mu$ M leupeptin and 0.05 mg/mL pepstatin). The 160,000 x g pellets were resuspended in 10 mM HEPES/KOH (pH 7.4) containing 1 mM EDTA at approximately 5 to 10 mg/mL protein by Dounce homogenisation (Dounce A; 10 strokes), frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C. Receptor binding assays were performed in a final incubation volume of 0.2 mL in 10 mM HEPES/KOH (pH 7.4), containing 1 mM EDTA, 10 mM 30  $\text{MnCl}_2$  and 0.7 nM [ $^3\text{H}$ ]PGD<sub>2</sub> (200 Ci/mmol). The reaction was initiated by addition of membrane protein (approximately 30  $\mu$ g for DP and 10  $\mu$ g for CRTH2) from the 160,000 x g fraction. Ligands were added in dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) which was kept constant at 1 % (v/v) in all incubations. Non-specific binding was determined in the presence of 10  $\mu$ M of non-radioactive PGD<sub>2</sub>. Incubations were conducted on a mini-orbital shaker at room temperature for 60 min. The binding assay was terminated 35 by rapid filtration through a 96-well Unifilter GF/C (Canberra Packard) prewetted in assay incubation buffer without EDTA (at 4°C) using a Tomtec Mach III 96-well semi-automated cell harvester. The filters were washed with 3 to 4 mL of the same buffer, dried for 90 min at 55°C and the residual

radioactivity bound to the individual filters determined by scintillation counting with addition of 50  $\mu$ L of Ultima Gold F (Canberra Packard) using a 1450 MicroBeta (Wallac) counter.

Maximum specific binding was defined as the total binding minus the non-specific binding in the absence of competitor. Specific binding was determined at each concentration of compound and was expressed as a percentage of the maximum specific binding. Sigmoidal equilibrium competition curves were constructed by expressing percentage maximum specific binding as a function of test compound concentration and analyzed by a custom designed software package employing a simplex driven non-linear least-squares curve fitting routine based on a four parameter equation to determine the inflection point (InPt). The binding affinity of the test compound was determined by calculating the equilibrium inhibition constant ( $K_i$ ) from the equation  $K_i = \text{InPt} / (1 + ([\text{radioligand}] / K_d))$ , where  $K_d$  is the equilibrium dissociation constant for the radioligand-receptor interaction. When InPt could not be determined the  $\text{IC}_{50}$  was used (i.e. the concentration of test compound required to inhibit 50 % of the maximum specific binding).

Generally the DP antagonist compounds used in the present invention demonstrate a  $K_i$  for the DP receptor of from about as low as about 0.4 nM to as high as about 16.3 nM. Likewise, the DP antagonist compounds used in the present invention generally demonstrate a  $K_i$  for the CRTH2 receptor of as low as about 180 nM to as high as about 22,000 nM or even higher.

#### Effect of Compounds on Drug -Induced Vasodilation in Mice

The potency of the selective DP antagonists in preventing or reducing flushing as described herein can be demonstrated using a murine model of human nicotinic acid-induced flushing, measuring the flushing inhibitory effect. Blood flow in the mouse ear (a measure of vasodilation, a prominent component of flushing in humans) is measured after administration of nicotinic acid or compound I to mice that had been pretreated with vehicle (as a control) or a DP antagonist. Specifically, male C57BL/6 mice (~25 g) were used in the study. Nembutal is diluted with water to a final concentration of 5 mg/ml and injected 0.3 ml/mouse intraperitoneally. DP antagonists are dissolved in 5% hydroxypropyl  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin at a final concentration of 5 mg/ml and the compounds were administered intraperitoneally at a volume of 0.2 ml/mouse (~40 mpk). Nicotinic acid is dissolved in 5% hydroxypropyl  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin at a final concentration of 12.5 mg/ml. Nicotinic acid and Compound I stock solutions are adjusted to pH 7.4 and injected 0.2 ml/mouse subcutaneously (~100 mpk).

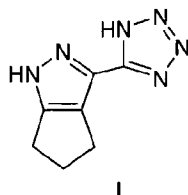
Perfusion of mouse ear skin is monitored with a laser Doppler perfusion imager (PeriScan PIM II, Perimed, Sweden) every 30 seconds for 15 minutes starting 5 minutes prior to nicotinic acid or compound I administration. Percent changes in mean perfusion over the 10 minute period after vehicle, nicotinic acid or compound I administration are calculated and a graph of percent change in mean perfusion vs. time can be generated for each animal. The area under the curve (AUC) of mean perfusion (%  $\Delta \times \text{min}$ ) is then calculated from each graph and the results are expressed in mean AUC  $\pm$  SEM for each group.



All patents, patent applications and publications that are cited herein are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety. While certain preferred embodiments have been described herein in detail, numerous alternative embodiments are seen as falling within the scope of the invention.

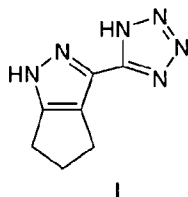
## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of treating atherosclerosis in a human patient in need of such treatment comprising administering to the patient a compound of formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and a DP receptor antagonist in amounts that are effective for treating atherosclerosis in the absence of substantial flushing.

2. A method of raising serum HDL levels in a human patient in need of such treatment, comprising administering to the patient a compound of formula I:

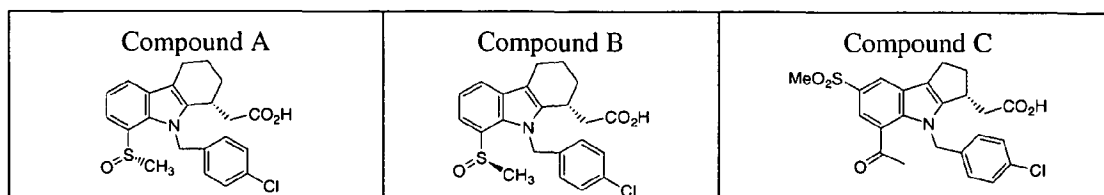


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, or another nicotinic acid receptor agonist and a DP receptor antagonist, said combination being effective for raising serum HDL levels in the patient in the absence of substantial flushing.

3. A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the DP receptor antagonist selectively modulates the DP receptor and does not substantially modulate the CRTH2 receptor.

4. A method in accordance with claim 2 wherein the DP receptor antagonist selectively modulates the DP receptor and does not substantially modulate the CRTH2 receptor

5. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the DP receptor antagonist is selected from the group consisting of:

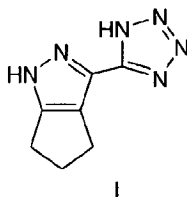


<p><b>Compound D</b></p>	<p><b>Compound E</b></p>	<p><b>Compound F</b></p>
<p><b>Compound G</b></p>	<p><b>Compound H</b></p>	<p><b>Compound I</b></p>
<p><b>Compound J</b></p>	<p><b>Compound K</b></p>	<p><b>Compound L</b></p>
<p><b>Compound M</b></p>	<p><b>Compound N</b></p>	<p><b>Compound O</b></p>
<p><b>Compound P</b></p>	<p><b>Compound Q</b></p>	<p><b>Compound R</b></p>
<p><b>Compound S</b></p>	<p><b>Compound T</b></p>	<p><b>Compound U</b></p>
<p><b>Compound V</b></p>	<p><b>Compound W</b></p>	<p><b>Compound X</b></p>

<p><b>Compound Y</b></p>	<p><b>Compound Z</b></p>	<p><b>Compound AA</b></p>
<p><b>Compound AB</b></p>	<p><b>Compound AC</b></p>	<p><b>Compound AD</b></p>
<p><b>Compound AE</b></p>	<p><b>Compound AF</b></p>	<p><b>Compound AG</b></p>
<p><b>Compound AH</b></p>	<p><b>Compound AI</b></p>	<p><b>Compound AJ</b></p>

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

6. A pharmaceutical composition comprised of a compound of formula I:

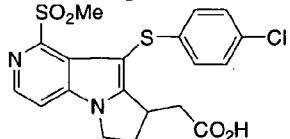
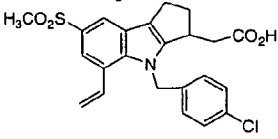
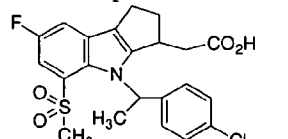
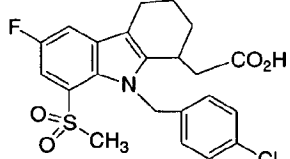
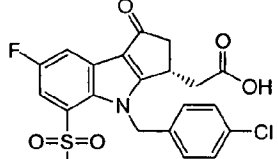
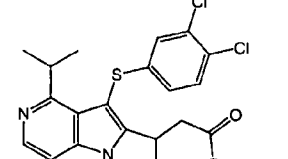
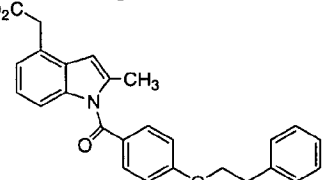
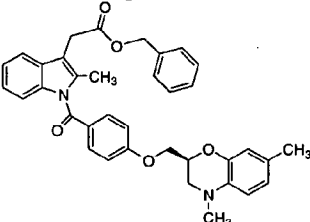
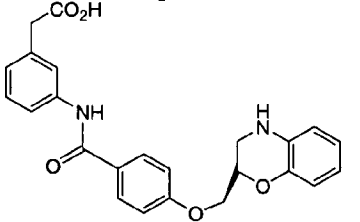
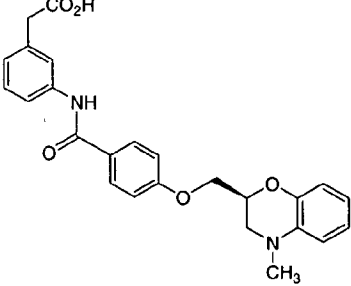
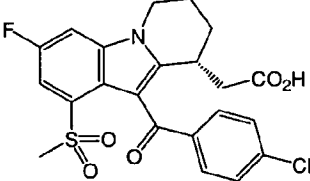
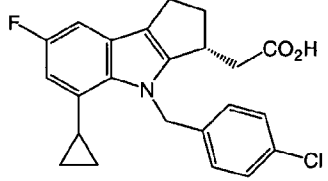
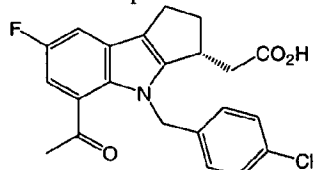
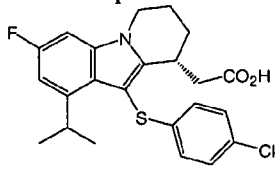
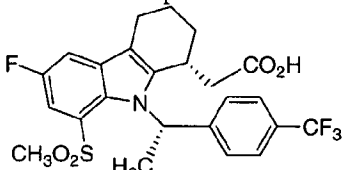


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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, and a DP receptor antagonist in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

7. A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 6 wherein the DP antagonist is selected from the group consisting of:

<p><b>Compound A</b></p>	<p><b>Compound B</b></p>	<p><b>Compound C</b></p>
<p><b>Compound D</b></p>	<p><b>Compound E</b></p>	<p><b>Compound F</b></p>
<p><b>Compound G</b></p>	<p><b>Compound H</b></p>	<p><b>Compound I</b></p>
<p><b>Compound J</b></p>	<p><b>Compound K</b></p>	<p><b>Compound L</b></p>
<p><b>Compound M</b></p>	<p><b>Compound N</b></p>	<p><b>Compound O</b></p>
<p><b>Compound P</b></p>	<p><b>Compound Q</b></p>	<p><b>Compound R</b></p>
<p><b>Compound S</b></p>	<p><b>Compound T</b></p>	<p><b>Compound U</b></p>

<p><b>Compound V</b></p> 	<p><b>Compound W</b></p> 	<p><b>Compound X</b></p> 
<p><b>Compound Y</b></p> 	<p><b>Compound Z</b></p> 	<p><b>Compound AA</b></p> 
<p><b>Compound AB</b></p> 	<p><b>Compound AC</b></p> 	<p><b>Compound AD</b></p> 
<p><b>Compound AE</b></p> 	<p><b>Compound AF</b></p> 	<p><b>Compound AG</b></p> 
<p><b>Compound AH</b></p> 	<p><b>Compound AI</b></p> 	<p><b>Compound AJ</b></p> 

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

8. A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 7, wherein the DP  
 5 antagonist is selected from the group consisting of compounds A, B, D, E, X, AA, AF, AG, AH, AI and  
 AJ.

9. A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 6, further comprising an HMG Co-A reductase inhibiting compound.

10. A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 9 wherein the HMG Co-  
5 A reductase inhibiting compound is simvastatin.

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International Bureau



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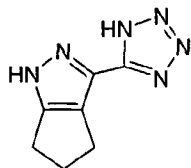
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD OF TREATING ATHEROSCLEROSIS, DYSLIPIDEMIAS AND RELATED CONDITIONS



(I)

(57) Abstract: A method of treating atherosclerosis, dyslipidemia and related conditions is disclosed wherein a compound of formula I: or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof is administered to the patient in combination with a DP receptor antagonist. The DP receptor antagonist is administered to reduce, prevent or eliminate flushing that may otherwise occur.

WO 2006/026273 A3



# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/30001

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: A61K 31/44( 2006.01)

USPC: 514/381,382

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 514/381,382

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
STN ONLINE

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,P	WO 2005/044816 A1 (ARENA PHARMACUETICALS, INC) 19 May 2005 (19.05.2005), see entire documents, especially abstract, page 1, lines 21-31; page 12, line 13 thru page 32, line 1; page 44, lines 14-23; claims.	1-10

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

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